

Hafa Adai!

Local veterans encouraged to share their stories.

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MOA in the works to address 'gaps' in social services.

» PAGE 6

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75¢

Stalled cleanup raises hackles

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House lawmakers on Tuesday sought an update from Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada on reported delays in the islandwide cleanup, some four months after Typhoon Soudelor laid shambles to Saipan.

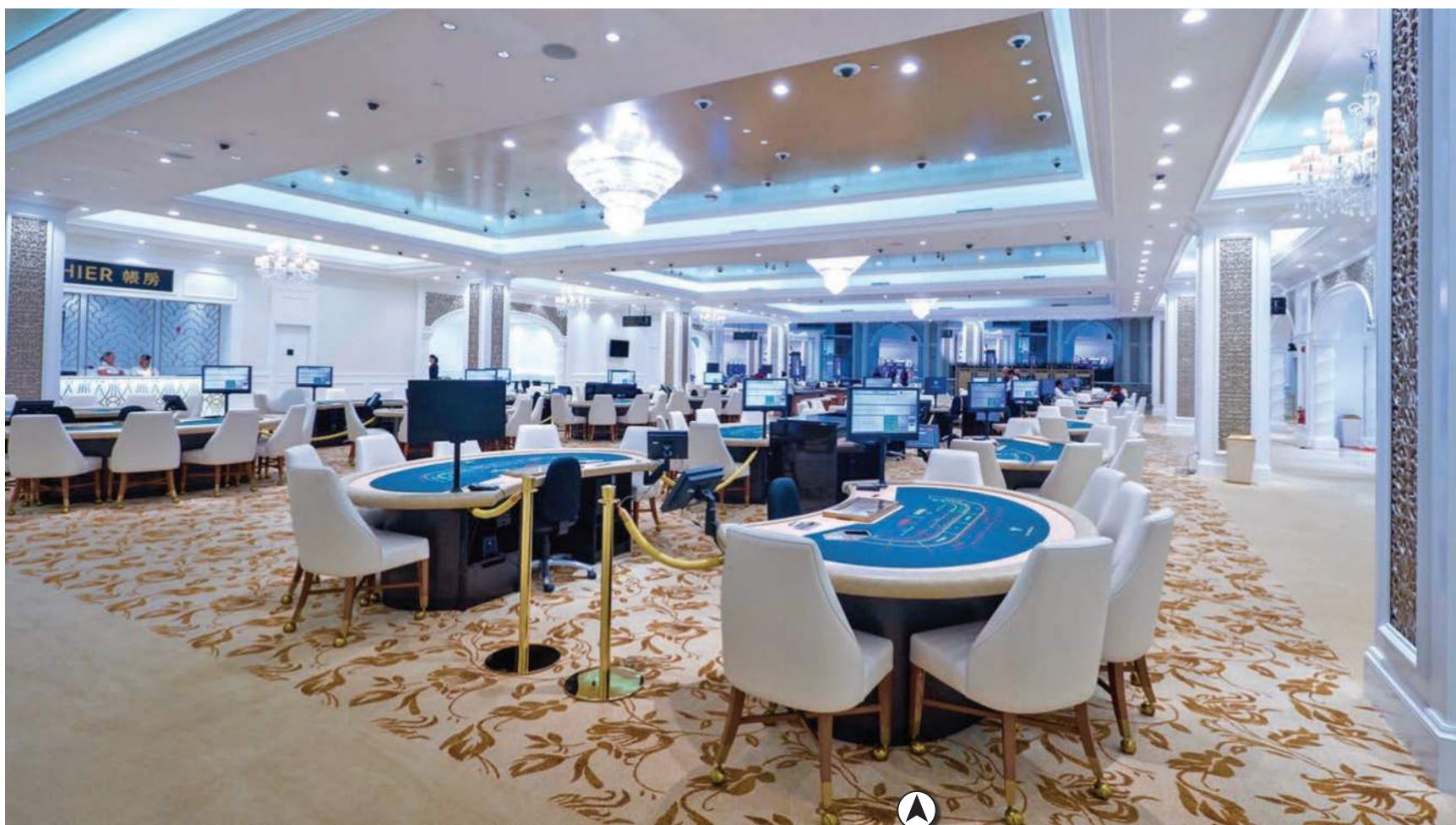
See STALLED on Page 4

DOJ to CUC: Stop blocking pipeline project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Justice says the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is just throwing up roadblocks to the construction of a fuel pipeline in Lower Base, blaming CUC's "ineffective management" for nearly five years that caused the costs

See DOJ on Page 4



Best Sunshine Live opens today

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The live casino on Saipan formally opens today. Launching at full capacity with 40 gaming tables ready, the Best Sunshine Live casino in T Gal-

leria has announced its grand opening for 6pm this evening, one of many milestones they call part of their aim to help "the CNMI economy recover and change the landscape of gaming in the Pacific."

In a statement, Best Sun-

shine International, Ltd. said they are eager to uncork surprises as part of its formal launch tonight. One of them is "over \$1,000 raffle every hour." "Mark your calendar and join in the merrymaking," the casino statement said.

Best Sunshine Live, the casino training facility of Best Sunshine International, Ltd., will open to the public today. In this photo handout, the training facility, according to casino experts, is the world's most expensive training facility.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine says their grand opening will set the tone for the future of gaming operations in the region. "It will herald the entry of a once-sleepy island community into the

company of world-class destinations," the casino added.

This bodes well for the rise of Saipan as a "mecca of global travelers with a gnawing hun-

See BEST on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Seven newly certified Division of Customs officers join the frontlines.

» PAGE 7



NATION

Demonstrators gather in Chicago to protest the shooting death of a black teen.

» PAGE 20



SCIENCE & TECH

US officials are signaling a move toward embracing self-driving cars.

» PAGE 23



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Local

6-month probation for entering house and touching sleeping girl

Kimo Einat William, 22, was slapped with a six-month prison term for breaking into a neighbor's house in China Town and rubbing the thighs and buttocks of a 16-year-old girl.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced William on Wednesday to six months imprisonment for disturbing the peace. Upon his release, he will be put on probation for a year.

William is prohibited from having any contact with the victim and ordered to stay away from her house and school.

Wiseman noted that the allegations are serious and that the Office of the Attorney General originally charged William with sexual assault in the second

degree and other charges. The charges were later amended to assault and battery, and finally only disturbing the peace.

The OAG initially recommended a suspended sentence as part of a plea deal. Wiseman rejected the deal as too lenient.

Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda said that William entered the bedroom of his neighbor at night while the girl was asleep and rubbed her thigh and buttocks, causing her to wake up and scream for help.

The prosecutor said Williams admitted that he had been drinking alcohol prior to the incident.

William's lawyer, Joaquin Torres, recommended a one-year probation sentence, saying his client has no prior conviction

and has accepted responsibility and is remorseful.

Before the sentence was handed down, William apologized to the court.

Police said a burglary disturbance at a house in China Town was reported to the Department of Public Safety on Sept. 7, 2014, at 4:14am.

The victim's father told the responding officers that someone entered his daughter's room and touched her legs while she was asleep. When one officer met with the girl, she was crying and appeared to be nervous.

The girl told police she woke up when she felt someone rubbing her left thigh toward her buttocks. When she opened her eyes, she saw a man sitting on the bed beside her and recognized him as William, who stays across the street from their house.

When the girl screamed, William covered her mouth with his hands. Her scream, however, woke up her grandmother, who then opened the door to her room.

William ran out to the balcony, jumped down, and ran toward the jungle area beside the house.

Police detective Simon T. Manacop stated that William claimed he was only supposed to "spy on the girl." (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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Local veterans encouraged to share their stories

By **DAISY DEMAPAN**
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the overwhelming number of service members from the CNMI and the White House authorizing 450 additional troops to Iraq with many from the Pacific region, the national Veterans History Project has yet to receive a submission to their collection from Pacific Islanders to date.

Although there is no shortage of veteran stories, local Army reservists who were urged to feature their experiences or contribute to the project said that many of the missions and experiences that are worth speaking about during their deployments contain classified information that could possibly result in a dishonorable discharge or demotion, adding to the further complexity of military operations and stability.

Still, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) continues to encourage CNMI veterans

to add their experiences to the Veterans History Project for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and making accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war from World War I to the War in Iraq.

The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that there are almost 21.8 million war veterans living today. Today there are no living veterans of World War I, only 855,000 veterans of World War II, and 2.5 million Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans who continue to serve multiple deployments or cope with unprecedented mental and physical challenges.

The Veterans History Project was made possible by the 106th Congress through Public Law 106-380 on Oct. 27, 2000, which found that 4.7 million served in World War I, 16.5 million served in World War II, 6.8

million served in the Korean Conflict, 9.2 million served in the Vietnam Conflict, 3.8 million served in the Persian Gulf War, and countless other Americans served in military engagements overseas throughout the 20th century.

About 100,000 veterans' stories have been collected so far, with 15,000 available online. The collection includes first-hand accounts through audio or video interviews, written memoirs, photographs, manuscripts, letters, and even original works of art. If you want to participate, the project website provides resources for conducting interviews, hosting community events, and submitting stories. For more information about

how to get involved, visit www.loc.gov/vets or contact your congressional office at kilili@mail.house.gov or call 323-2647.

If you'd prefer to offer personal

perspectives and analysis on the local impacts of U.S. militarism in the Asia-Pacific region, especially in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in terms of decolonization and sovereignty struggles,

and the challenges of building community where U.S. bases and installations are located, contact *Beyond the Fence* radio host Vivian Dames at btf.kprg@gmail.com or call (671) 734-8930.

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Recall of Takata airbag inflators at unprecedented rates

By DAISY DEMAPAN
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some 20 owners of cars that have airbags made by Takata have already scheduled appointments this November with Joeten Motors Corp. and the automotive dealer service representative said that's about the average number since the announcement of the recall in local newspapers.

"We have plenty [of] appointments, that's all I can say to you," she said before referring *Saipan Tribune* to the official Honda website for further information. Joeten Motors is the local dealer of Honda vehicles.

Other vehicles affected by the Takata recall are Toyota cars, which are sold locally by Atkins Kroll. A complete list of recalled vehicles can be found at <http://www.safercar.gov/rs/takata/images/pdfs/TakataPriorityGroups.pdf>

On Nov. 7, 2014, *The New York Times* published a report that Takata, an automotive parts company based in Japan with production facilities on four continents, was fully aware of airbag defects in car models such as Honda, Toyota, Chrysler, Mitsubishi, Subaru, and General Motors, with Honda topping the list as the most high-risk vehicle in need of recall.

According to the *Times* report, former Takata employees state that the defects date back to 2004 when the company conducted tests on their airbags from scrap yards, done at the request of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to address a cushion tearing issue. The results showed that a defective airbag inflator and propellant caused airbags to deploy improperly and cause steel shrapnel to impale drivers.

Takata failed to alert the NHTSA of the issue since the early 2000's and only issued a statement in July, saying that humid weather in addition improper propellant handling

during assembly caused the issue.

At least eight people have been killed worldwide and hundreds injured.

As of yesterday, a total of 41 million vehicles have been recalled worldwide. On Nov. 3 of this year, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued Takata a \$70-million penalty with an additional \$200 million if any further violations are found. A day later, Honda issued a statement that it will no longer use air bag components from Takata, with Toyota, Mazda, Nissan, and Ford following suit.

American Honda Motor Co. issued a statement on their

website stating, "We have become aware of evidence that suggests that Takata misrepresented and manipulated test data for certain airbag inflators. Honda expects its suppliers to act with integrity at all times and we are deeply troubled by this apparent behavior by one of our suppliers. As to Takata airbag inflators now being used by Honda, the root cause analysis of inflator ruptures is ongoing, and may indicate that further action is needed. Honda will act promptly if those results indicate the presence of a safety-related defect

in any Takata airbag inflator used by Honda."

The NHTSA noted that immediate action is recommended if your vehicle is registered in the areas around the Gulf of Mexico, including Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, and Hawaii.

If you have a car that dates back to 2004 in any of the mentioned makes, log on to www.recalls.gov to confirm whether your airbag needs replacement.

STALLED

From Page 1

Some lawmakers asked why a private contract needed to be issued for this cleanup, but Ada tossed that hot potato to federal officials for denying a contract that was signed since August.

Apatang said he gets calls everyday about uncollected debris such as roofing tin, wood, green waste, and others.

Employees of the Saipan Mayor's Office have been moving debris to the side of roads "for pick up later," according to Apatang, in advance of more comprehensive cleanups.

Apatang says they need more equipment like dump trucks, backhoes, and payloads.

Considering the handful of other typhoons that hit the Marianas this year, lawmakers are concerned that an approaching storm could wash these piles away.

"We are going to hit those roads," Ada assured.

Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) also questioned why they needed to award a contract for the island cleanup. He said they have two government agencies ready to keep the community safe.

"Is there a reason why everything needs to stop because of the contract?" He noted the immediate "mobilization" after the storm, even with "no contract."

Sablan asked for a definite response on how the issue is being approached, so they could "get beyond this stalemate" over "a paper to be signed."

Apatang said they "were told to halt [the cleanup] because a contract was going to be issued" by the secretary of the Department of Public Works.

He said they are just waiting for the "go ahead" and are "ready to march."

Referring to this contract, Ada said they are "back to square one."

He said the Federal Emergency Management Agency's main office in Washington, D.C. was giving them the "run around."

"And I can be quoted on that," he said.

He said the contract was signed in August but was not approved by FEMA officials.

Joan Aquino, the mayor's field operations director, said that FEMA had said at the beginning that about \$1.9

million was available for the cleanup but in a meeting last week, they were informed that only \$625,000 is available.

"That is all they are willing to reimburse," she said.

Ada also blasted FEMA's estimate that there were 10,000 tons of debris on island.

"There is more... You are going to come here and tell us what to do?" he asked, noting that official inspectors didn't even know where Judge Kenneth Govendo's house was.

"They are guesstimating," Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero (R-Saipan) said.

Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) also noted that during his community cleanup efforts, he's noticed "everybody is waiting for our government to step in."

"I am waiting for constituents to step in" as well, he said.

DOJ

From Page 1

of the project to escalate.

DOJ Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien also described as "abstract" CUC's statement that the pipeline may ultimately not be needed because of a plan to build another power plant in another site.

O'Brien gave these statements in opposing CUC's request for the federal court to hold a status conference on the \$4.6 million fuel pipeline project.

CUC earlier this week asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to intervene in the project, saying that more than \$8.8 million will be spent to build the new pipeline under the management of Gilbane Federal.

CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok noted that only \$4.6 million has been budgeted for the project.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based construction company appointed by the federal court to manage and expeditiously complete some stalled CUC projects.

According to Sirok, Gilbane Federal has already spent nearly

\$1 million just for travels, meetings, and preparing the plans.

Because of this, CUC wants the U.S. District Court for the NMI to set a status conference to discuss Gilbane Federal's performance on the pipeline project.

Sirok encouraged the court to consider allowing CUC to just repair and replace the defective sections of the existing pipeline at a much lower cost to the utilities agency.

Sirok also questioned the need to build the new pipeline at such an exorbitant cost when its future length of use may be shortened because of the construction of a new power plant in a different site on Saipan.

In the U.S. government's response on Wednesday, O'Brien said a status conference will result in CUC continuing to come up with unsupported reasons for its longstanding inability to complete this and other Stipulated Order 2 projects.

"It is time to put aside CUC's impediments to the pipeline construction and for the parties and [Gilbane Federal] to roll up their sleeves and get to work," O'Brien said.

He pointed out that CUC has been saying all along that if it is somehow able to fund and build

a new power plant, it would be in the vicinity of Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base and would use the CUC pipeline and other infrastructure such as the new Tank 102.

O'Brien said CUC's new argument is incongruous and cannot be reconciled.

"For example, if the pipeline construction should be deferred due to an unknown and unspecified potential new power facility that may be placed in another location, then why is CUC continuing to construct Tank 102 at a site that CUC now argues may be abandoned?" the DOJ counsel asked.

O'Brien said no one disputes that the current CUC pipeline, the sole pipeline for transmitting CUC's oil supply from the Mobil terminal to Power Plants 1 and 2, is in poor condition and leaks oil.

O'Brien said CUC now asserts that its preferred alternative to a new CUC's pipeline is to continue to repair the existing pipeline after spills occur.

He said CUC's approach is wholly unsupportable as the existing pipeline runs within 100 feet of the Philippine Sea and the Pacific Ocean, adjacent to beaches, and along a designated wetland and creek.

O'Brien said the new pipeline is needed to eliminate spills so there is no need to rely upon CUC's stopgap responses that occur after oil spills have damaged the CNMI's waters, coral, beaches, and other areas.

On escalating costs, O'Brien said after nearly five years of ineffective CUC management plagued by design and construction difficulties and other delays that added to the costs that CUC now complains are excessive, the pipeline remained not built.

O'Brien said the funding source for the pipeline is currently in flux as it is unclear whether the funding ceiling should reflect grant or non-grant funding.

He said whether the funding source is clarified or sooner, the parties can mutually discuss the Task Order 2 funding ceiling and inform the court to their position(s).

The oil pipeline project is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers diesel fuel from the Mobil oil facility to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the adjacent ocean.

BEST

From Page 1

ger for a new brand of entertainment and leisure," the casino said in its statement.

"It's an outstanding effort," said casino consultant Andrew Klebanow, who has visited over 700 casinos across the globe. He called Best Sunshine's gaming facility "impressive."

Best Sunshine is planning to build a \$7.1-billion multiphase integrated resort and is planning to realize this through a casino resort in Garapan and other future projects in the northern part of the island. The casino in T Galleria is just a temporary training facility for its workers to gain experience for the projected \$500-million project in Garapan, where the former American Samoa housing project used to sit. This project has been dubbed the "Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel Resort" and is reported to finish construction by December 2016.

To date, the casino investor has plunked down \$200 million on Saipan, with over 600 employees.

Recently, Best Sunshine brought the entire cast and crew of the Chinese variety show *Running Man* to film several episodes on Saipan. Best Sunshine said they wanted to bring Saipan to the consciousness of over 400 million viewers in China with this venture.

The casino says they plan to bring in more top media and tour groups from Japan and China, but note they "cannot do it alone."

"It takes the entire community to believe and make it happen. As the CNMI tourism ambassadors usually say, 'Tourism is our business.' It should indeed be everyone's business," Best Sunshine said in its statement.

Regulator mulls presence at casino party

In related news, Saipan casino regulators weighed Wednesday whether they would attend today's grand opening of the temporary ca-

sino in T Galleria.

Envelopes with invites stamped on "golden" tickets have been sent to government officials and lawmakers ahead of the casino's grand opening.

During their meeting Wednesday, Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told commissioners that he sent a letter to the Office of the Public Auditor, and copied the CNMI Attorney General's Office, to seek "guidance on their presence at the casino."

According to Guerrero, the letter sought guidance on "gray areas" in the law, such as whether they could accept a bottle of water or food, or speak at the ceremony if asked.

For his part, Mike Ernest, the commission's lawyer who also represents the Attorney General, advised against speaking or partaking in food or drink, or even attending at all.

He personally has no plans to attend, unless told to.

"The commission cannot in good conscience take part in it," he said, noting that they should send their enforcement agencies instead.

"The more we are seen to be intertwined" with casino, he said, the more it would affect public perception and would "preclude them from being neutral in fact-finding if a hearing" takes place over any alleged violation during the casino party.

Commissioner Alvaro Santos noted, though, that social courtesy is very important.

"Not to accept is almost offensive. Might as well not show up...especially with our culture."

"OPA wants us to be 'stoic and stiff,'" he said, but to "show up and leave—that's very discourteous."

That same day, *Saipan Tribune* sent an email to Office of Public Auditor lawyer Ashley Kost to follow up on the commission's concerns. There was no response as of press time yesterday. Phone calls requesting comment from the OPA office were also not immediately responded to on Wednesday. The government was off yesterday and also today.

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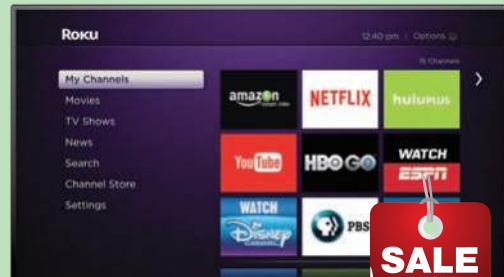
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MOA in the works to address 'gaps' in social services

The Eloy S. Inos administration and social service agencies are finalizing a memorandum of agreement to, among other strategies, systemically move unemployed locals who get food stamps into the workforce.

CNMI Department of Labor and Food and Nutrition executives met with Inos officials as part of a follow-up to the administration's inaugural special commission on "economic opportunity" earlier this month.

The officials aim to get people to actively look for jobs and not "game" the system, *Saipan Tribune* learned. They have identified three "gaps" between local Labor programs and Nutrition Assistance Program programs that must be addressed in order to

motivate food stamp beneficiaries to actively look for jobs. These "gaps" refers to ones in relationship between the two services.

There are about 500 food stamp beneficiaries who are registered under a work registration program under the Labor Department.

A statement from acting governor Ralph DLG Torres' office describes these "gaps" as:

- The limited training available to NAP recipients who are looking for a job;

- The lack of adequate disincentives in the current NAP program that keeps applicants from pursuing a job; and

- The lack of a method to streamline data of social service applicants into one portal, for ac-

cess for policy and program officials looking to track or monitor the success of these benefits.

The first gap

According to the statement, officials have targeted mandatory workforce training programs that are currently being developed, such as a Prepping for Success course at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute. The programs will "cover a variety of workforce readiness courses that build the necessary skills to enter and succeed in the job market."

This training, the statement said, is planned as a "compulsory component of the NAP registration process." It will be funded using available workforce training funds through the

Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency.

Officials have discussed an amount of about \$50 to train an applicant, meaning about \$25,000 will be needed to train these NAP applicants, officials said.

Second gap

On the second gap, officials look to a system that NAP has already developed through a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Food and Nutrition Services.

This program would target those who are required to seek employment but "are not committed to the work registration process."

NAP has outlined their approach to disqualify certain NAP recipients if they do not

follow through with the terms of the work registration process.

If an individual is required to seek out employment and does not, for instance, go to a scheduled job interview—or attempts to circumvent the system—that individual will be disqualified from receiving benefits for three months for the first violation, six months for the second, and a permanent disqualification for the third.

"This is not meant to be overly punitive," the administration said. It's to let people know that they must take the job-hunting part seriously.

According to Inos officials, Labor intends to provide data on participants to NAP following their registration into the WIA workforce placement program.

Third gap

To address the third gap, officials

focused on an online portal that Labor has created to register applicants for the WIA program.

Officials are working on how this portal can be expanded to encompass the other social service programs, such as NAP, to create a comprehensive database of services being provided throughout the CNMI.

They call it a "virtual one-stop center."

Among other benefits, the administration believes the new portal would allow specific programs to tailor services, in collaboration with other service providers, "to create an individualized roadmap out of poverty."

The agreements made during this discussion will be outlined in a memorandum of agreement between the Department of Labor and NAP. The MOA is currently being drafted to reflect the discussions of the meeting. (Dennis B. Chan)

USCIS responds to alleged delays in the processing of CW renewals

A federal immigration official has responded to the reported delays foreign workers and businesses are seeing in getting their CW renewal permits approved.

Tim Counts, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services public supervisory public affairs officer, said "additional review time" is often expected.

USCIS had told employers on island to renew the CW permits of their employees six months in advance of expiration. However, there have been increasing complaints that the six months are nearly up yet many don't have their renewals yet.

In an email response to a *Saipan Tribune* inquiry, Counts said the longer process time could

be due to a number of reasons.

If USCIS requests additional information or evidence, the case will take longer to process, he said.

"Cases that involve large numbers of workers may also require additional time to adjudicate, as each case needs to be considered on its own merits," he noted. "In order to give full and fair consideration to the evidence submitted by an employer, additional review time is often necessary."

Counts advised that if a case is taking longer than expected, the petitioner may call the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. (Dennis B. Chan)

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Seven complete 4th cycle of customs training



DAISY DEMAPAN

By **DAISY DEMAPAN**
daisy_demapan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After 14 weeks of rigorous training, seven newly certified Division of Customs officers have joined the frontlines of those who screen the islands' seaport, airport, and postal offices.

According to Customs director Jose Mafnas, there are now approximately 54 Customs officers, with the new officers under the purview of senior officers.

Training coordinator Rita Santos said this is the smallest cycle consisting of mostly male officers. Nonetheless, she said all of them exemplify the quality of a dedicated customs officer.

Mafnas said the new officers would be using new equipment such as x-ray scanners with a 500-lb capacity for the airport and a 6,000-lb capacity scanner for bulk items at the seaport. Handheld scanners are also in the process of being procured.

Mafnas presented the certificates of completion to the 4th cycle of officers at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International

Airport during their Thanksgiving luncheon, saying, "We finally are able to present your certificates after much waiting due to having this postponed due to the typhoon."

Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, who was also present, congratulated the officers for their hard work, highlighting the significance of increasing vigilance at all points of entry on the island.

The newest Customs officers are John Salas, Juan Inos III, Toby Fleming, Chai Magofna, Ryan Kikku, Chris Duenas, and Joshua Mafnas. The brief ceremony also recognized the completion of K9 training for Drug Detector Specialist 1 Shawn Delacruz.

"Thank you for the hard work and trainings you have completed to maintain the standard of customs in order to continue the accomplishments of last year no matter what is being thrown at you. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, thank you for your hard work and dedication," Larson said.

After 14 weeks of rigorous training, seven newly certified customs officers have joined the ranks after the CNMI's 4th cycle of training.

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Marquez wins Club 88's mural design competition

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An amateur artist who used to be with the Merchant Marines has been named the winner of Club 88's mural design competition and his winning artwork will soon be on display when he paints it on a wall of the Mariana Resort & Spa, where Club 88 recently opened a second e-gaming facility.

Chrisnoen Marquez of Gualo Rai was awarded \$1,500 by club owner Victoria Scott and manager Michael Holl last Wednesday for winning the competition.

In keeping with the competition's island theme, Marquez created a design of an ocean

filled with creatures such as several fish and a dolphin, as well as tropical plants and flowers.

"This is definitely one of the cleanest, most professional ones out of the entries that we had. It fit the theme of the competition. It's a great design, good artist," Holl said.

Aside from the natural ocean elements, Marquez also added ships, much like the view from Beach Road.

"I added ships because on Beach Road you see them and it's a beautiful sight—the sunset and the ships are there and because I'm basically a retired merchant marine myself," he said.

Marquez, who was encour-



FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Chrisnoen Marquez of Gualo Rai won \$1,500 from the mural design competition of Club 88 and will be painting the wall outside the club's facility in Mariana Resort and Spa. With him in the photo are club owner Victoria Scott and manager Michael Holl.

aged by his wife to join the competition, isn't a professional painter or artist but has been doing a lot of drawings since his youth.

"When I was on the ship, I did a lot of tattoo drawings, stuff like that. Ever since I was young I did a lot of drawings," Marquez said.

It will be his first time to paint a mural. Marquez said he looks forward to start painting and

will do it as soon as the materials are available.

Marquez will be painting on the exterior wall of the veranda overlooking Mandi Asian Spa and the Pacific Ocean. The wall measures about 25 feet long and 20 feet tall.

"This will be a great experience for me to do something like this. I'm really going to do my best. I want to inspire my kids too," he said.

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Kick off holiday season at Hyatt with fun carnival, movie night

Hyatt Regency Saipan invites community members to kick off the holiday season this Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015, with a family fun carnival and evening movie by the beach. This year marks a special occasion for the hotel as it will be celebrating its 35 year presence in Saipan.

"The smiles and repeat visits are what we are known for and if we can do it for 35 years, what's another 35 more years of continued island hospitality," said Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa.

The 35th anniversary festivity begins this weekend, Nov. 28, 2015 from 2pm to 6pm on the garden grounds. There will be classic carnival games and yummy treats such as spin the wheel, ring toss, gone fishing, face painting, and much more to make an afternoon to remember. To end the night, we will host a movie on our beachfront by Disney Pixar, *Inside Out*, at 6:30pm so don't forget to pack your beach chair!

Following, the family fun carnival will be the annual tree lighting ceremony on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, at 6pm. Perfor-

mance by the Koblerville Elementary School Umang Glee Club will commence at 5:45pm in the hotel entrance. The Make-A-Wish Foundation children and their families will attend and we invite the public to join in the festivity. The tree lighting is at 6pm followed by live entertainment in the Lobby Lounge.

The anniversary celebration continues on Friday, Dec. 4, 2015, with an evening soiree from 6pm to 9pm, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan garden, in collaboration with sponsors who have been our loyal partners for the last 35 years. It will feature special foods, wines and spirit pairings. Hyatt thanks their loyal partners for their continued support. The price for the event will be \$35 per person and \$25 for Club at the Hyatt members and their guests.

Also celebrating Hyatt Regency Saipan's grand milestone of 35 years of professional service are three outstanding team members: Hinami Tarkong, the late Delfin Florendo and Mihir Rout. Together, we commemorate our harmonious relationship. (Hyatt)



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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

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EDITORIAL

US can take on the Islamic State without committing more troops

When President Barack Obama announced an international campaign to “degrade and ultimately destroy” the Islamic State last year, the organization was primarily a regional threat, inflicting its savagery on the people of Iraq and Syria and on hostages from other countries who were captured in the Middle East. But the coordinated attacks in Paris that killed 130 people and the downing of a Russian airliner suggest that the organization has embarked on a campaign of exporting terror globally.

In response to those spasms of wanton killing, the United Nations Security Council approved a resolution last week urging countries around the world to take “all necessary measures” to prevent terrorist acts by the Islamic State, al-Qaida and similar groups.

What should that mean for U.S. policy?

In an editorial after the Paris attacks, we counseled against a sudden lurch in what Obama has called “a steady, relentless effort” against the Islamic State, which so far has consisted of using U.S. air power and relying on local forces to fight the ground battles. We specifically rejected—and still oppose—a proposal by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., that the U.S. deploy 10,000 troops to the region.

But the U.S. and its allies can and should increase the pressure on the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq in recognition of the group’s expanding agenda, and without committing the U.S. to provide “boots on the ground.” The administration reportedly is considering tripling the 50 special operations forces Obama has said he will dispatch to Syria, and the Pentagon may increase the frequency and severity of U.S. airstrikes, especially those targeting oil facilities, which provide a source of revenue for the Islamic State. (The administration should be careful, however, not to loosen restrictions designed to minimize civilian casualties.)

In a thoughtful speech last week on the presidential campaign trail, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for regional powers such as Jordan and Turkey to play a larger role in combating the Islamic State. But she also suggested a more flexible role for the more than 3,000 U.S. forces now serving in Iraq as trainers and advisors. She would allow U.S. personnel to be embedded with Iraqi units and to help call in airstrikes. Admittedly, such a change in posture would increase the risk that U.S. forces would come under fire, but it also could improve the effectiveness of operations against Islamic State strongholds.

There are two main objections to the U.S. ratcheting up its military involvement. One is that it will be too incremental to make much difference in the war zone. That’s true of any limited use of U.S. power, yet it’s not a persuasive argument for the U.S. waging another ground war in the Middle East. A related concern is that, if these steps do fall short, Obama and his military advisors will eventually be tempted to escalate further. This is the familiar “quagmire” argument, and it can’t be blithely dismissed. But it’s also a rationale for taking no action, ever. A better safeguard against that kind of escalation would be for Congress to belatedly adopt an Authorization for Use of Military Force.

See US on Page 10



A turkey to roast

Turkey is an ancient name for a region that was part of the Ottoman Empire, retaining the name for a country to this day. The same word is used on the spread of roasted bird, squatted to grace tables on Harvest Festival in North America, aka Thanksgiving Day (today across the international dateline), a family time for a shared meal among extended families spread out separately in nuclear units.

The turkey was mistaken for the guinea fowl when Europeans encountered the native bird of the Yucatan valley and brought it to Europe. Traders from the Middle East kept bringing a similar looking fowl to England, which earned America’s bird the association with the region in the Dardanelles between the European Aegean and the Asian Black Sea. First referred to as the Turkey bird, it has since been called simply as *turkey*, with the wattle and snood.

Besides, after Columbus, the Americas were considered part of Asia, until the navigators plying the Straits of Magellan to the Far East confirmed that Native Americans called Indians were not from India, and America was nowhere close to Asia. Columbus thought it was, but the bird retained its Middle Eastern name. Turkey came from *Asia*, the word that to Akkadians meant, “where the sun rises,” the region “not Europe” to Sumerians.

The black-white ethnic divide that bedevils the U.S. arises from ingrained ethnocentricity that considers Caucasian superiority in Europe, flowered with the Aryan supremacy of the Wehrmacht in WWII.

India’s high caste system of Brahmins saw not too long ago a family pour gasoline at night on their low caste neighbors, set fire that killed a three-year-old and 9-month-old sibling while asleep. The predominantly Indo-Aryans in South Asia are definitely turkeys to roast.

But it is the succulent bird that is our focus, mostly the culinary delight it offers with the roasting “sweat” caught as drippings in the saucepan used for basting, or converted into a dipping sauce, to the slicing of the white meat for the head of the table, and the brown meat for the kitchen help in Texas.

I remember my primal spouse who grew up outside of Chicago, older than Hillary by a couple of years but relatively of the same economic and demographic background, who realized that fish does not come filleted from fresh and briny waters but prepared at the factory or the grocery store before being packaged. Where she grew up, food normally came from the pantry or the frozen section of the grocery store, not from the outlying farms where the livestock crow, oink, grunt, baa, bleat, gobble and moo.

Rural Philippines trained me in more basic amenities. In my family, when preparing a live chicken, I was the cold-blooded one to drive the butcher knife on the fowl’s neck while my father and two brothers looked the other way. *Berdugo daw ako.*

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



I discovered that the Internet is replete with instructions on how to roast a turkey, but only one or two peripherally mention the preparation of a live one. I was curious because turkeys were not common in the Philippines of my growing up, and we only raised one or two in Northern Luzon for the visiting missionaries, or for sale in the upscale markets of Aparri and Tuguegarao. I was a party to beheadings but was not invited to the carvings!

In the United States, where kind folks invited me for dinner on Thanksgiving Day as a foreign student, I met to-meet-the-turkey again. It was not the turkey at all that was the focus of the day, though the common parlance around the table among the seculars was Turkey Day. It was the conviviality around the meal table that was ritualized with kin relations as the starting definition but not solely since neighbors and friends counted as well.

The White House made a big deal in “pardoning” two turkeys this year. In October, the Justice Department confirmed decongesting the penal system by shortening inmates’ sentences, particularly those incarcerated on drug charges. Thanksgiving Day observes a pardon of sort also. On the day when the fir tree goes up to anticipate the Yuletide season, Christmas to a self-proclaimed Christian nation, a turkey merrily walks away while the partner greases the kitchen oven.

A girl in elementary on verbal conflicts with guys, who contradicted her assertions just to be contrary, walked away in exasperation uttering, “turkeys.” “Turkey” was a word of disgust for those she disliked among the male of the specie. She learned her English very well.

The English of America stayed with us. It is one of the country’s two primary languages. Tagalog adopted into Pilipino after Independence Day elbowed its way to entrenched English that the Thomasite teachers (those who came on the ship *Thomas* in 1901 to take over the 1863 Spanish public school system) instructed prospective brown Americans on English ways and manners.

Turkeys are carved today in North America. My neighbor in Finasisu raises deer and doe that grunts, and sells birds to hotels. He makes a bundle. He is no turkey!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Orion doesn't do dishes

I always get stuck with the dishes during the holidays. Not even dish-pan hands, however, can dampen my enthusiasm for the season. Nature smiles on us this time of year. November is when Orion, the constellation of the hunter, starts rising over the eastern horizon in the evening. Right now it's rising about two hours after sunset, which is after I've put the dishes away. It's as if the wily old hunter was hiding out from kitchen chores before joining us for the evening.

While everybody else adjourns to the study for hot toddies and Pictionary, I figure I'll say a few words about Orion. It's one of the best-known features of the sky, and it's recognized in a worldwide array of cultures, be they modern or ancient.

In fact, there are caveman depictions of Orion that are over 30,000 years old. At the modern end of the spectrum, I'll note that the Web has all sorts of information about Orion, so anyone who is interested can easily get up to speed on the topic.

Everyone on Saipan has heard of "ginseng," an herb common in Asian medicine. The Chinese character for ginseng is said to have originated as the character for Orion's three-star belt.

Those three stars form a bright, neat line which is the easiest way to identify Orion. Other prominent features are the red supergiant star Betelgeuse, which is one of Orion's shoulders; the bright star Rigel, which is one of his feet; and the several stars that form the sword that hangs down from the belt.

That sword is one of the most photographed regions of the sky. If you have clear skies, the unaided eye can see a glowing region about mid-way down the sword. It looks like a fuzzy star. That's where the Orion Nebula is. It's a cosmic fluorescent light, a glowing body of gas that is giving birth to stars. Even a mediocre pair of binoculars will reveal this as a dramatic sight, and even a small telescope will reveal newborn stars that are swaddled in the cosmic gas they came from.

As easy as it is to see from Earth, the Orion Nebula is actually very distant. It's 1,300 light-years away, which is roughly eight-thousand-trillion miles. Want some cosmic drama? Some stars have been flung out of this region, becoming castaways, and they've even found lonely planets that are orphans with no suns to orbit. The more they peer into this oven of cosmic creation, the weirder it gets.

I'd never try to sell anyone on the notion of turning off the TV and tuning in to the cosmos, but for those who are so inclined anyway, I'll say that if you're looking for a starting point you can't do any better than Orion.

That's one point my parents agreed on. When I was a kid, my dad, a naval officer, taught me the important navigational stars. For her part, Mom had a great old book called *The Stars by Clock and Fist*, by Henry M. Neely, which taught a useful method to eyeball your way around the sky.

My parents used Orion as a starting point because even a snott-nosed moron like me could find it, and because the arrival of Orion marked the departure of the mosquitos. We could go outside after dinner without becoming something else's dessert. A few weeks later, ice-and-snow season would be with us. So Orion in late autumn was a window between mosquito bites and frostbite.

Those who take an interest in Orion quickly find that it's a useful guidepost to other stars in the region. The star Betelgeuse serves as a rough center for an array of stars that form a loose perimeter around it. These are: Sirius, Procyon, Pollux, Castor, Capella, Aldebaran (with the Pleiades, a cluster of stars, nearby), and Rigel.

Incidentally, the Japanese name for the Pleiades is "Subaru," yes, that's the same Subaru as the brand of automobile. If you look at the Subaru logo, you'll notice that it depicts a group of stars.

I can't ever pass up a chance to mention Castor, which has an interesting story. Castor is actually a family of six stars that are orbiting each other as in a trio of pairs. Through a telescope each of the pairs shows a visible star, so it's a three-star view in the eyepiece. Castor and neighbor Pollux are the twins in Gemini, so if you're a Gemini you've got some very interesting stellar action

Stepping on dirty toes

THE CNMI's loss of credibility as an investment venue has dug a deeper and wider hole in the deepening fiscal crisis and economic depression at home. The only way out is to consciously chance what's known as "cronyism" to move things forward. And the elected elite fell for it. What is this beast?

When government partners with a mega-venture to conduct business where the latter commands anything and everything from land to laws. Has this happened here? You be the critical observer. What's wrong with this deal?

The government—in much the same as Obama has done in Washington—decides who are the winners and losers in basically all deals—to move growth forward. The firm may not secure public funding but the influence it holds leaves everybody else at the door. Is this the right paradigm or approach to spurring economic growth? This policy started less than a decade ago, forcing Japanese investors and U.S. to head elsewhere.

Again, you be the critical judge on this issue. You could use either simple common sense or inference to draw your own conclusions. As the NMI takes superficial celebratory comfort in its assumed wealth it equally ignores the receding revenue generation and the obvious budgetary shortfall it faces in the near and long-term. This is very troubling!

I'm not fixated on critical observations about the deepening budgetary shortfall to the tune of \$150 million nor is it an issue for personal celebration either. Why does it matter to me? Stepping into the fiscal fault line translates to, yes, greater hardship among villagers. This is the very issue I find most troubling. How do we pay for retirees' pay of \$40 million next fiscal year? Where do we scrounge funds like \$86 million for CHC and PSS, not to mention other critical obligations?

But then the quietude we've demonstrated could well speak of our approving the reckless disregard of funds to ensure adequate public services are met on a timely basis. We shall see how this paradox on cronyism pans out.

Now, while Japanese-U.S. investment may have receded we have in our living room a huge elephant now teaching the servile boys a new song. With coconuts gone, the boys have obediently reviewed the songs for their Christmas skit.

It's a bit convoluted and it is for this reason that it takes real leadership to sift through the maze to provide guidance what needs to be done in terms of working in new investments.

Isn't our collective fiduciary duty to ensure sufficient opportunities for our people? Would the newfound toy in cronyism do the job? Isn't this the seat of corruption in government?

Fast and furious

While we mouth off superficially about indigenous rights and interests, our actions or inactions haven't been stellar standing up for what's ours! I liken the envisioned growth in casino and accompanying social scourge as the hard-to-predict volcanic eruption. But when it hits it's usually devastating on every front.

If "fast and furious" isn't domesticated, then there's a greater chance we would replicate the displacement of our Palauan brothers and sisters. The Chinese with tons of money came in buying any-

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



going for you.

As for Rigel, it marks the entry to a long constellation called Eridanus, which winds its way south and culminates at the bright star Achernar. Many of your friends in the mainland can't see it; it's too far south. But from Saipan it's an easy shot, at least if you pick the right time.

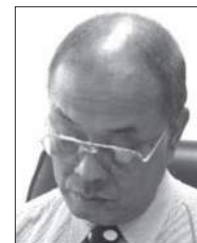
Anyway, we're just scratching the surface here, but the point is that Orion, and all it brings with it, is an impressive sight. It doesn't take any equipment, or books, or fancy training to appreciate it; five minutes on the Web is more than enough to get anyone started.

Do enjoy the view. Me, I'll have to excuse myself. It's time to go back inside. Toddlers are being served and teams are being formed for Pictionary. I'm the last pick again, which, like Orion's appearance, is an unshakable holiday tradition.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



thing and everything. It has even brought in its tour buses replacing locals in this business. Sad too that many have been displaced from Koror! Anybody home?

The agenda is humongous that includes cultural transition from tradition to their version of social responsibility. Interestingly, the firm uses our very own to create an agenda that would slowly destroy our heritage. It's a basic in anthropology!

Are muted silence and indifference the best answer we could render plans designed to displace the indigenous people permanently? Why would we want to close the barn door after all the horses have run out? Dizzying, huh?

Poverty of leadership

There's the biblical passage of Moses leading his people out of Egypt into a better place. He essentially brought his followers out of slavery and poverty. He risked all to fulfill the command of God the Father. It's called leadership!

My friend and I have also been peeping around imperial Capital Hill to see if there's anyone with leadership qualities that could bring the multitude out of fully designed abject poverty.

Declared Magoo: "None! What's his name, Raffy? He talks about poverty when his leadership suffers from poverty itself." Did he mean his lack of leadership or ill-conceived strategy? He's actually saying, when talking about poverty, we're broke!

Hooked on a feeling

There's woefully quiet whisper among elected officials these days wherever they go: "Hooked On A Feeling." In other words, have the feds been knocking at your doors? Hmmm! That should be followed by "Sugar," you know, sugar daddy or someone paying for all your expenses for compromising your integrity. Dollar a beer is included for faithful followers.

We still have yet to see a couple more of the elected elite line up for a day at Horiguchi and stint at a federal penitentiary. This begins with a certain melody and should end with "Silent Night" when one is alone pondering the fatal path of greed.

Today, we hear speeches about poverty. Yet just south of the NMI is Guam whose tourism industry is constantly expanding with additional international flights and investments in new hotels. Ours has gone Deep South. I'm sure we're intellectually fit to discern the obvious anomaly in what's happening in our southern neighbor versus ours.

While not a fan of militourism—military expansion and tourism—it's interesting how it has expanded exponentially as we salivate for bread crumbs. Or is this a reflection of the mindset upstairs? I mean what have you done in real time to improve the wellbeing of families suffering miserably at your feet?

US

From Page 10

tary Force against the Islamic State that would hold Obama to his promise that he won't deploy combat troops in the region.

Clinton and many of the Republican presidential candidates have gone further, calling for the creation of no-fly zones to prevent the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad from assaulting civilians and opponents from the air. The problem with this proposal is that it would be difficult to establish such areas safely without the cooperation of Russia, which also is conducting airstrikes in Syria. That underlines the importance of the United States continuing to work with Russia and other countries to bring about a political transition in Syria that preserves government institutions there while giving the Syrian people the opportunity to choose new leadership. Secretary of State John F. Kerry has been pursuing that objective in talks with representatives of Russia, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and other countries, although they've yet to bear fruit—a reflection of how difficult it will be to persuade Assad's backers to agree on a timetable for his exit.

Finally, reducing the influence of the Islamic State also will require efforts to stop the flow of foreign fighters to the Middle East, prevent the radicalization of young people and block the funding of terrorist organizations. Military force is an important part of the equation—especially when it comes to depriving the Islamic State of territory from which it can instigate attacks—but it will not, by itself, counter the group's influence.

Obama has been criticized for comments that seemed to minimize the threat posed by the Islamic State, including his declaration a day before the Paris attacks that the group had been "contained" (a reference to its failure to gain control over additional territory). Whatever fault one may find with his words, Obama has made an increasingly serious effort to counter the Islamic State, even when that involved military action that he once might have opposed. That doesn't mean, however, that more can't be done.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- Nov. 30, from noon to 7pm
- Dec. 2, from 10am to 11pm
- Dec. 3, from 2-11pm
- Dec. 4-5, from 2-9pm
- Dec. 6, from 2-10pm

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Dec. 2, from 7pm to 11pm

The general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. *(JRM)*

Limited hours for NMI Judiciary

Today, Nov. 27, 2015, the Guma Hustisia on Saipan will have limited hours of operation from 7:30am to 11:30am only. Essential services in the Offices of the Clerk of Court, the Marshal Service Division, and Judicial Chambers will be provided. Minimal staff will be designated to address docket requirements, emergency and related prescheduled matters. The Administrative Services Unit (Casher), Information Systems Unit, Building & Maintenance, Office of the Commonwealth Recorders, Law Revision Commission, and the Judiciary Administrative Office will be closed all day. On Rota and Tinian, the courthouses will be closed all day. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 29, 2015. *(NMI Judiciary)*

SHEFA sets submission deadlines

For both new and returning applicants of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, the application deadline for spring 2016 semester is Dec. 1, 2015. Deadline for the submission of the memorandum of agreement and supporting documents is on Feb. 29, 2016. Applications can also be faxed to (670) 235-5996 or emailed to saipanshefa@gmail.com. Ongoing recipients do not need to re-apply for this spring term. However, you must submit your official transcript and class schedule for spring 2016 before Feb. 29, 2016. For more information and inquiries about the SHEFA program, visit the SHEFA website, www.saipanshefa.net, or contact the office by e-mail at saipanshefa@gmail.com/contact@saipanshefa.net. *(SHEFA)*

DPS sets sobriety checkpoints next week

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting sobriety checkpoint on Dec. 5 and 6, 2015.

On Dec. 5, a Saturday, the first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan by Taro Sue Store, on the northbound lane, from 8pm to 9:15pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, in front of Triple J Wholesale, on the northbound lane, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm.

On Dec. 6, a Sunday, the first setup will be on Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to the residence of the

late Dr. Benusto Kaipat, on the southbound lane, from 6pm to 7:45pm.

The second setup will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan, by Joeten Commercial Building, from 8pm to 9:15pm.

Each checkpoint will last at

least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In addition, police will be conducting laser speed enforcement along various highways.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas at (670) 483-5818. *(DPS)*



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BSI holds health screening tests

In observance of November as Diabetes Awareness and Prevention Month as proclaimed by acting governor Ralph DLG Torres, and in fulfillment of the company's initiative to help promote a healthy lifestyle, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. held a successful blood glucose screening for its employees over the weekend.

With chief service officer Tao Xing and the corporate social responsibility team led by Rita Chong at the helm, BSI offered the free screening to assess diabetes health risks across the employee population.

Assisted by three volunteer nurses, the screening is the company's initiative to help motivate employees into taking appropriate actions to improve overall health. Integrated into the screening were infographics and health care pamphlets provided to the employees to aid in dia-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A nurse draws sample from one Best Sunshine employee.

betes health teaching, as well as a panel of nurses who provided one-on-one health coaching with nutrition and diet, preventive measures and interventions, and referrals to health care providers.

Best Sunshine emphasizes

the importance of the employer in implementing these activities to meet a diverse range of needs and preferences among employees. Their wellness-related approach is supported by the staff and culminated with distri-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nurse volunteer Abbys Mitchell from the Commonwealth Health Center draws blood from Best Sunshine employees.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Best Sunshine employee submits to a blood sugar test.

bution of water and fresh fruits after the screening.

Esther Milne, manager of BSI's corporate social responsibility team, said, "It is important for the company to show that our employees are taken care of. This confirms our commitment to the endeavors of the government and corporate partners to help develop ways to educate and attend to the needs, not only of the public, but in our workplace as well."

"Best Sunshine cares for their employees. It is about appreciation and responsiveness. A Thanksgiving feast is prepared for all the employees to thank them for their excellent service," she added. (BSI)



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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for construction of a Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Containment Barrier at the Tinian International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Tinian International Airport Brown Tree Snake Containment Barrier Construction, Project No. CPA-TA-002-13 and must be submitted no later than **2:00 PM on MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2015** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to, construction of a 40' x 40' concrete containment barrier, inclusive of masonry work, touch up painting, electrical connection to existing panel, lighting and power, bituminous pavement, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

The Contract period for construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible," their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the Project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by CNMI Law or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract. A copy of the CNMI Minimum Wage Rate Determination is included in the General Provisions, Section 70-25.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the Specifications. Bid Proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office at no cost.

Each Bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the Bid Proposal documents, with submission of their Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference date.

Bid Proposals shall be submitted on the Bid Proposal form included in the CD-Rom obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding Bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the Bid Schedule or mis-entry of the quantity of line items; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the Project Contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said Bids if, in its sole opinion, to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the Regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

Each Bidder must supply all information required by the Bid documents and Specifications.

A Contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the Specifications. To be eligible for award, each Bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this Invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in consideration for an award of any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each Bid shall be accompanied by either a Bid Bond issued by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, Certified Check, or a Cashier's Check in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the Bid amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed Contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ JOSE F. LIFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: November 20, 2015

Over 20 participate in community gardens training

By **FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON**
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 20 participants attended the first day of training for the community gardens project of the

Let's Move Marianas alliance and the Division of Public Health.

Victor Cabrera, a teacher at Hopwood Junior High School and a hobbyist, taught participants Gardening 101 as well as

different types of gardening.

Various organizations such as the Youth Empowerment Alliance For Health and the departments such as the Office of the Lieutenant Governor attended

the training held at Kanoa Resort last Saturday.

According to Let's Move Marianas chairperson and DPH-NCD Bureau's diabetes project assistant Amber Mendiola, participants had the opportunity to learn about the different types of gardening that are available on island and the ones that they are actually going to do.

"Everybody learned about the different types of gardening that

we're going to be conducting and then we discussed the sites that we're going to do the gardening," Mendiola said.

Tomorrow, the participants will have another training session and will be touring the sites where the community gardens will be established.

The locations for the gardens are Koblerville Youth Center, San Antonio Youth Center, Gualo Rai Youth Center, Kagman Community Health Center, and the Governor's Office on

Capital Hill.

A garden will also be established at the lot of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. for DPH.

Mendiola said they plan to start planting in the community gardens in December.

Organizations will be adopting plots from each of the sites where they will be able to plant and grow their own cucumber, lettuce, potatoes, mulberry bushes, atis, pumpkin, and watermelons, among others.

As Gonno green waste site closed down

This is to advise all Saipan residents that the As Gonno green waste site has been closed down. The Kagman

green waste site shall remain open and will continue to accept vegetation waste, lumber and tin disposal as a result of

Typhoon Soudelor. The DPW transfer station in Lower Base will also continue to accept tin and the Marpi landfill will accept vegetation waste and lumber. (PR)

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Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Printing funded by the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Grant under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration.



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\$1.9M infrastructure funding released to A. Samoa

»Funding seeks to bolster health, education, port, and youth center projects

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina announced yesterday the release of \$1.9 million in Capital Improvement Projects grant funding to American Samoa through the Office of Insular Affairs' Capital Improvement Project Program. The funds support Gov. Lolo Moliga's priorities and much needed improvements to critical infrastructure in the territory.

"Much of this CIP funding helps bring to completion health, education and transportation infrastructure projects

that OIA has funded previously," said Kia'aina. "We are extremely pleased to support the governor and the people of American Samoa in this way."

Grants awarded this week were as follows:

■ \$700,000 for a new classroom building at Aua Elementary School to alleviate overcrowding. The 3,840 square foot building will have four classrooms and will be connected to a brand new two-story classroom building that was completed with fiscal year 2011 CIP grant funding. In total, the two new buildings will provide a new cafeteria and nine new classrooms for the elementary school.

■ \$711,533 to the Department of Port Administration for



Kia'aina

construction of a new service wharf. The project, which costs a total of \$8.7 million and is part of the territory's Five-Year and Long-Term Facilities Plans, will provide a new wharf for servicing ships and facilitating port

operations in Pago Pago Harbor. The existing service wharf, which was built in the 1950s on sediment instead of a solid basalt foundation, has deteriorated to a state that is unsafe for port operations and is slowly sinking. Initial plans to renovate the wharf were scrapped following geotechnical investigations that recommended new construction as the safest option. The Port Administration recently selected a contractor and construction is expected to begin before the end of the year.

■ \$200,000 to complete funding for a fully equipped and operational Primary Care Center in Faga'alu. This grant supplements a \$500,000 CIP grant awarded earlier this year, bringing the total project cost

to \$700,000. An existing building that houses Physical Exams and the Well Baby Clinic will be renovated and upgraded to include six exam rooms, three medical offices, a staff conference room, two full locker rooms for clinical staff, and two lavatories. The center will also be expanded to add a patient waiting area, receptionist desk, nursing area, and space for records management.

■ \$278,434 to purchase furniture and equipment for the Pago Pago Youth Center. The newly constructed community center will include an indoor basketball/volleyball court, kitchen, computer lab, sewing room, weight room, stage area, restrooms, and office areas. The new furniture, equipment, and supplies will help the American Samoa Department of Youth and Women's Affairs furnish the new building and facilitate recreational programs such as the Youth Academy, sewing, cooking, flower arrangements, and other programs for youth and the elderly. (OIA)

Hospital services, clinics open today

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña is reminding her staff that hospital services and clinics will still be open today.

In a memorandum issued to staff Tuesday, Muña said that only administrative offices will be closed.

"In line with the acting governor's administrative leave for Friday, only administrative offices will be closed," the memo states.

"All hospital services including ancillary services and outpatient clinics such as the Women's, Children's and Family Care Clinics, Public Health Clinics, Community Guidance Center clinics, the Kagman Community Health Center and Tinian and Rota health centers shall remain open for business as usual. Support staff for these services should also report for duty on this day," the memo adds.

According to Muña, they don't want to have four days where the only option available for the public are the hospital and emergency room services.

"We don't want four days of no clinic. That's basically not good health care," Muña said in an interview.

She said they need to have at least the clinics be open today.

"Friday we need to remain open for the clinics and the support staff that are part of that clinic [should report for duty]," Muña said.



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CUC to purchase bucket trucks and equipment

San Nicolas: Zero tolerance for 'ice' use

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas is reminding the island's government employees that he has zero tolerance for illegal drugs, particularly methamphetamine or "ice."

San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* that he has been very consistent in his stance against illegal drugs and has had conversations with employees and potential employees about his zero tolerance policy.

"If you want to work for the public, then you must adhere to the rules. And one big rule is no use of illegal substances particularly crystal meth," the mayor said.

He said many people have lost their savings and fortune because of addiction to "ice" and other problems associated with the use of meth.

"My message is this: Do not violate the law. Do not use crystal meth. If you are caught, you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," he said.

The Department of Public Safety, in conjunction with the Department of Finance's Division of Customs K-9 Unit, recently conducted a three-day Highway Criminal Interdiction Patrol on the island. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be purchasing bucket trucks and equipment to help with their operation.

At their meeting on Tuesday, the CUC board approved the

purchase and delegated chief financial officer Matthew Yaquinto to handle the procurement procedures.

Up to six bucket trucks and some equipment will be pur-

chased amounting to between \$500,000 and \$600,000.

An offer made by Primary Sources from Colorado was mentioned at the meeting.

Board member Joe Torres said they need to notify Primary Sources of their interest in the offer.

Last October, six bucket trucks were flown in from Colorado to assist in the rebuilding efforts in the wake of Typhoon Soudelor.

CUC will be issuing a request for proposal for the purchase of bucket trucks.

"We still have to follow procurement rules and issue an

RFP, but we just acknowledged that we received the offer," Yaquinto said in an interview.

CUC has about four bucket trucks that Yaquinto said are already old.

"These are greatly needed to help our operation," he said. *(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)*



SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 2015

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Nation

Protesters to target Chicago shopping area on Black Friday

CHICAGO (AP)—Small groups of demonstrators gathered throughout the day Wednesday to protest the death of a black teen shot 16 times by a white police officer, and they urged supporters to join them in trying to shut down Chicago's famous Michigan Avenue shopping district during the Black Friday shopping bonanza.

About two dozen protesters gathered outside Mayor Rahm Emanuel's office a day after authorities released the graphic video, footage that President Barack Obama said "deeply disturbed" him.

The video shows officer

Jason Van Dyke, who was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder, firing an entire magazine into 17-year-old Laquan McDonald.

The protesters held banners showing photos of other black people fatally shot by police in Chicago and elsewhere. Several said they were parents of black men killed by Chicago officers.

"You cannot kill our children and expect us to be quiet any longer," protester Quovadis Green said. "It is unacceptable."

Activist Mark Carter called on people to "rise up" and shut down the Magnificent Mile shopping area on Friday. Pro-

testers also planned to target the Board of Trade and other landmarks in the coming days, he said.

Carter and others want the Department of Justice to investigate the Chicago Police Department and its history of covering up bad behavior.

The Urban League of Chicago joined in the call for a federal investigation, alleging a pattern of "discriminatory harassment" against black people.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said other officers involved in McDonald's death should be fired or at least suspended. He also wants a special prosecutor ap-



AP

Lamon Reccord, right, stares and yells at a Chicago police officer "Shoot me 16 times" as he and others march through Chicago's Loop Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015, one day after murder charges were brought against police officer Jason Van Dyke in the killing of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald.

pointed to the case, complaining that Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez took too long to bring a murder charge in the shooting, which happened more than a year ago.

Obama said in a statement Wednesday night he was "deeply disturbed" by the video footage.

In a Facebook post, the president said he is asking Americans to "keep those who've suffered tragic loss in our thoughts and prayers" this Thanksgiving "and to be thankful for the overwhelming majority of men and women in uniform who protect our communities with honor."

Travelers take to the roads and the skies for Thanksgiving Day

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The big Thanksgiving getaway went into full swing Wednesday with drivers delighted by the lowest November gas prices in years and many airline passengers undaunted by terrorism fears and long lines at security checkpoints.

At the White House, President Barack Obama said there is no "specific and credible" intelligence indicating a plot against the U.S. and assured anxious Americans: "While the threat of terrorism is a troubling reality of our age, we are both equipped to prevent attacks and we are resilient in the face of those who would try to do us harm."

"And that's something we can all be thankful for," he added as

one of the biggest travel periods of the year got under way.

Nearly 47 million Americans are expected to take a car, plane, bus or train at least 50 miles from home over the long holiday weekend, according to AAA. That's the most travelers since 2007, a rise attributed to an improving economy and the cheapest gasoline for this time of year since 2008.

Chuck Ansbacher, a 34-year-old Brooklyn resident, said recent terror attacks in Africa and Paris didn't faze him when it came to travel. He was still flying with his parents and sister from New York's LaGuardia Airport for the annual family Thanksgiving in Burlington, North Carolina.

Native Americans in Louisiana swamps seek tribal recognition

LAFITTE, La. (AP)—Giovanni R. Santini has done just about all he could to prove he's an American Indian over the decades he's lived in his Louisiana bayou town—even fighting with his fists to defend his bloodline with the Houma tribe.

"Every day at school they'd beat me up, bloody me up, for being Indian," recalled the 80-year-old Santini, who's worked on tugboats, laid pipelines and built homes. "We became good fighters because they beat us up so much. Even teachers didn't like me ... We earned our respect with fights!"

Today the folks in Lafitte, this town of fishermen and oilfield workers, don't doubt he's a proud member of the 17,000-strong tribe of Houma Indians scattered over south Louisiana's bayou communities.

Not so for the federal government.

For decades, efforts by the Houma to become a federally recognized native American tribe have failed. It's a story common across the nation for dozens of groups that have come up short while trying to prove they should be treated as sovereign nations

Holiday Season 2015

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World

Putin sends air-defense missiles to Syria to deter Turkey

French lawmakers vote to extend airstrikes against IS

PARIS (AP)—French lawmakers voted Wednesday to continue airstrikes in Syria against the Islamic State group that claimed responsibility for the Nov. 13 attacks that killed 130 people in Paris, while Germany’s chancellor said her country would do more in the international fight against the group.

Parliament’s upper house, the Senate, voted 325-0 with 21 abstentions to prolong France’s airstrikes in Syria beyond early January. The lower house had earlier voted 515-4 in favor.

French fighter jets joined the U.S.-led coalition against Islamic State extremists in Iraq in 2014, and expanded their mission to IS targets in Syria in September. President Francois Hollande cited specific threats against French interests stemming from IS in Syria.

The vote came as Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel discussed how to combat the group that has spread its violence beyond Syria to Europe and North Africa.

Merkel indicated her coun-

try would do more in the international fight against IS.

“We know that this attack wasn’t just intended for the people of Paris, but for our whole way of life,” she said after laying a single white rose at the Place de la Republique, the Paris square that has become the focal point of tributes for the victims.

Germany, Merkel said, wasn’t just saddened by the attacks, “it also feels challenged to do everything to prevent such events from happening again.”

Hollande said it would “be a very good signal in the fight against terrorism” if Germany could do more against IS in Syria and Iraq. Germany currently provides weapons and training for Kurds fighting against IS in Iraq.

“If the French president asks me to think about what more we can do, then it’s our task to think about that and we will act quickly,” Merkel said, adding that the Islamic State “can’t be convinced with words, it must be fought with military means.”

MOSCOW (AP)—In a move raising the potential threat of a Russia-NATO conflict, Russia said Wednesday it will deploy long-range air defense missiles to its base in Syria and destroy any target that may threaten its warplanes following the downing of a Russian military jet by Turkey.

The incident was the first time in half a century that a NATO member shot down a Russian plane. If Russia responds by downing a Turkish plane, NATO member Turkey could proclaim itself under attack and ask the alliance for military assistance.

Most observers believe that a direct military confrontation is unlikely, but that the shooting down of the plane will further fuel the Syrian conflict and complicate international peace efforts.

The situation is also alarming because the Russian and Turkish presidents both pose as strong leaders and would be reluctant to back down and seek a compromise.

The S-400 missiles, which Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered sent to the Hemeimeem air base in Syria’s coastal province of Latakia, just 50 kilometers (30 miles) away from the border with Turkey, are capable of striking targets within a 400-kilometer (250-mile) range with deadly precision. The military also moved the navy missile cruiser Moskva closer to the shore to help protect Russian warplanes with its long-range Fort air defense system.

“It will be ready to destroy any aerial target posing a potential danger to our aircraft,” Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said at a meeting with military officials. He also announced the severance of all military ties with Turkey and said that from now on, Russian bombers will always be escorted by fighters on combat missions over Syria.

Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, director of the German Marshall Fund in Ankara, said it is possible Russia could down a Turkish plane.

“Turkish planes violate the Syrian border daily, either for reconnaissance flights or for anti-IS operations,” he said. “In the same way that Turkey argues it has rules of engagement, Russia could also declare its own rules of engagement, saying it has the right to protect the skies of its ally.”

The Russian plane’s downing marked a dramatic turnaround in relations between Russia and Turkey, who have proclaimed themselves to be “strategic partners” in the past and developed booming economic ties despite differences over Syria.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope says Christian-Muslim dialogue ‘essential’ for peace

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Pope Francis is telling Christian and Muslim leaders in Kenya that they have little choice but to engage in dialogue to prevent the “barbarous” Islamic extremist attacks that have struck Kenya recently. On his first full day in Africa, Francis insisted Thursday that religion can never be used to justify violence and lamented that “all too often, young people are being radicalized in the name of religion to sow discord and fear, and to tear at the very fabric of our societies.” He said interfaith dialogue isn’t a luxury or optional, but is simply “essential.” Francis made the comments in a meeting with Kenyan faith leaders at the start of a busy day that will see him celebrate Mass on a rain-soaked university campus and deliver a major environment speech.

2 Koreas hold border talks to discuss improved ties

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Officials from the two Koreas met Thursday at a border village to try to realize high-level talks as part of their agreements that defused a military standoff in August. The rivals threatened war against each other last summer over land mine explosions blamed on Pyongyang

that maimed two South Korean soldiers. The standoff was eased later in August when the Koreas met for marathon talks and agreed on a set of tension-reduction deals that includes resuming talks between senior officials. Thursday’s meeting is aimed at discussing when and where those high-level talks should be held with what agenda, according to Seoul’s Unification Ministry.

Australian wildfire kills at least 2 and injures 13 others

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—Firefighters contained a large wildfire Thursday that had caused at least two deaths, 13 injuries and destroyed at least 16 homes near the southern Australian city of Adelaide, officials said. Two bodies of a 56-year-old woman and a 69-year-old man were recovered on Wednesday, South Australia state Premier Jay Weatherill said. Their names were not released. At least two firefighters were among the 13 people hospitalized on Wednesday by the fast-moving blaze that had scorched 85,000 hectares (210,000 acres) of farm and woodland and threatened several towns near Adelaide, the state’s capital and largest city, Weatherill said. Five of the injured were in critical or serious conditions with burns.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP15 – RED006

“LEASE AND DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC PROPERTIES IN MARPI, SAIPAN”

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 27, 2016

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from interested and qualified companies or individuals for the purpose of leasing and further commercial development of the following public lands (Marianas Resort and Spa and Golf Course area):

Lot Number	Current Use	Lot Size, M2
<i>(West of Main Road - Oceanside)</i>		
003 A 05	Race Cart Track	115,500
003 A 06	Mini Golf Course / Hotel	49,500
003 A 07	Main Lobby / Hotel / Cottages	69,300
003 A 08	Villas / Maintenance Facility	30,738
003 A 24	Vacant Land	109,003
Group of Properties West of Main Road:		374,041
<i>(East of Main Road - Inland)</i>		
003 A 15	Pool / Baseball / Open Field	43,637
003 A 18 &	18 Hole Golf Course / Club House	905,784
008 A 01	House	30,000
064 A 02	Vacant Land	10,000
064 A 03	Vacant Land	39,000
086 A 01	Vacant Land	153,443
Part of TR 7-1 & 8	Vacant Land	56,759
Group of Properties East of Main Road:		1,238,623
Aggregate Area in Square Meters:		1,612,664

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available at the Department of Public Lands office, located on the 2nd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Interested proposers from overseas may request an RFP Packet by mail, or email. The request must be received by DPL no later than **February 26, 2016, 4:30pm ChST, reference “RFP15-RED006 LEASE & DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC LAND IN MARPI, SAIPAN”**

Questions from proposing firms regarding the contents of the RFP packet must be received, **no later than 4:30 pm on February 26, 2016 ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Pedro A. Tenorio, Secretary, Department of Public Lands at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: pete.tenorio@dpl.gov.mp

Response to questions will be summarized and shared with all proposers in a “Question and Answer” format.

The DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All proposals shall become the sole property of the DPL.

PATRICIA S. RASA, Acting Secretary
Department of Public Lands

Off The Wall

Meet John Howland, a lucky Pilgrim—and maybe your ancestor

BOSTON (AP)—John Howland may not be as famous as William Bradford, John Carver and Myles Standish, notable passengers on the Mayflower that landed in Massachusetts in 1620.

Yet Howland, who boarded the ship as Carver's servant, probably had a greater impact on the history of the United States than any of them. Hundreds of thousands of Americans will sit down for Thanksgiving dinner Thursday unaware that they owe their very existence to Howland, who almost never even made it to the New World.

Howland fell overboard in the middle of the Atlantic dur-

ing a gale but grabbed a trailing rope and was hauled back aboard by sailors using boat hooks. His remarkable story is the subject of a new children's book, "The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower, or John Howland's Good Fortune," by Irish illustrator and author P.J. Lynch.

Howland and his wife, fellow Mayflower passenger Elizabeth Tilley, had 10 children and more than 80 grandchildren. Now, an estimated 2 million Americans can trace their roots to him.

Howland's descendants include three presidents—Franklin Roosevelt, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush—as

well as former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin; poets Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; actors Alec Baldwin, Humphrey Bogart, and Christopher Lloyd; Mormon church founder Joseph Smith; and child care guru Dr. Benjamin Spock.

"The idea that the existence of all these people hinged on that one guy grabbing a rope in the ocean and holding on tight totally caught my imagination," Lynch said in a phone interview from his Dublin home. "Many of these people have made America what it is."

There are so many Howland

descendants that they have their own club—The Pilgrim John Howland Society—with about 1,200 members.

Gail Adams, a Howland descendant and editor of the society's publication, "The Howland Quarterly," was thrilled when she first found out about her lineage two decades ago.

"To think, if he hadn't made it, I wouldn't even be here," she said from her home in Virginia.

Lynch developed an interest in the story of the Pilgrims and Howland when he read Nathaniel Philbrick's book, "Mayflower." It was mostly new to him because he hadn't gone to

school in the U.S., where the story of the Pilgrims is taught to every child.

He acknowledges his book—written in the first person from Howland's point of view—isn't a 100 percent accurate account, and he has taken some liberties in telling and illustrating the story. For example, Howland was actually a young man on the Mayflower trip, not a boy as the book title suggests.

But that's OK with the experts—and Howland's very large extended family.

"He did a great job on it," said Richard Pickering, deputy executive director of Plimoth Plantation, the living history museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts, that preserves the story of the Pilgrims. "There is very little documentation about Howland's early years, but Lynch imagines them beautifully."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Oldest known seabird is back at Midway Atoll

HONOLULU (AP)—Federal wildlife officials say the world's oldest known seabird has returned to Midway Atoll. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Wednesday the Laysan Albatross named Wisdom was spotted at the remote island on Nov. 19. An ornithologist first put an identification band on Wisdom in 1956. She's estimated to be at least 64 years old, but she could be older. Laysan albatrosses typically mate for life, but Wisdom has likely had more than one mate. She has raised as many as 36 chicks. Breeding albatrosses and their mates will often spend about six months rearing and feeding their young. They forage hundreds of miles out at sea for squid or flying fish eggs.

Police: Man finds skull in front yard of California home

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)—Authorities say a man bringing in his trash can from the street found a human skull in the front yard of his home and called police. Investigators also found several bones along the road not far from the skull, Bakersfield Police Department Sgt. Gary Carruesco said Wednesday. The skeletal remains first discovered Monday all appear to be from the same person, Carruesco said. The Kern County Coroner's Office is trying to identify the remains. The coroner is also working to determine the cause of death and how long ago the person died.

Georgia sheriff revels in 'politically incorrect' sign

HAMILTON, Ga. (AP)—If you don't like a Georgia sheriff's political incorrectness, you can leave his county. That's what Harris Sheriff Mike Jolley warns on a new sign posted outside his department building. The sign reads: "Warning: Harris County is politically incorrect. We say: Merry Christmas, God Bless America and In God We Trust. We salute our troops and our flag. If this offends you. Leave!" Sheriff Mike Jolley



installed the sign Tuesday. Jolley tells local media that he paid for the sign himself and wanted to give voice to what he considers to be a "silent majority." Jolley says he has received overwhelming support from the community and plans to install more of the signs around the county.

Woman fined \$1,000 for trashing worker's office with glitter

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—A former clerk at an Ohio county's fiscal office has been fined \$1,000 for trashing a co-worker's office with glitter and purple Silly String. A judge in Akron also ordered 25-year-old Samantha Lockhart on Tuesday to complete 50 hours of community service and to write an apology. She had been working for Summit County when police say in January she smashed photos, threw glitter and sprayed Silly String in the office after sending a resignation notice. Prosecutors say Lockhart also destroyed a computer, scanner, printer and keyboard. Lockhart told the Akron Beacon Journal after sentencing that she didn't do everything she was accused of doing. She said everyone makes mistakes, but a prosecutor told the judge Lockhart didn't show any remorse.

Inmate kicks out police window, jumps onto Arizona freeway

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Authorities in suburban Phoenix say a handcuffed and shackled inmate was seriously injured after he kicked out a window in a police transport van on a freeway and jumped out of the moving vehicle. Gilbert police Sgt. Jesse Sanger says Adam Arlington broke out of a city police van bringing him to the Maricopa County jail in downtown Phoenix about 10:30 a.m. Wednesday. Police say the 31-year-old leaped from the van's passenger's side window and ran across Interstate 10 before being recaptured. Sanger says Arlington suffered a head injury and was taken to a Phoenix hospital. He's listed in serious condition. Arlington was in custody on a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct.

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Science & Technology

US officials signal move toward embracing self-driving cars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal transportation officials are rethinking their position on self-driving cars with an eye toward getting the emerging technology into the public's hands.

Just two years ago, the U.S. Department of Transportation struck a cautious tone. Its official policy statement, published in May 2013, says cars should be limited to testing and not "authorized for use by members of the public for general driving purposes."

With the technology's rapid development, that federal policy is being updated, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said Tuesday.

"I want the posture of our agency to be obviously vigilant on the safety front, but I don't want our agency to be skittish about innovations that are out

there," Foxx said.

It's unclear what the new policy will be, but Foxx clearly signaled that the technology intrigues him. He told reporters that he hoped the update overseen by his department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration would be ready in "weeks, not months."

For several years, Google and a handful of automakers including Tesla Motors, Nissan and Honda have been testing prototypes equipped with a suite of sensors and cameras on public streets and highways, mostly in California.

Those cars must have someone behind the wheel, ready to take over. Some have gotten into collisions, though in each case the companies say a person in another car caused the accident.

Google has advocated getting self-driving cars into the public



In this May 13, 2015, file photo, riders enter the Google's new self-driving prototype car for a ride during a demonstration at Google campus, in Mountain View, Calif.

AP

TECH Q&A

Making sure Windows 10 is safe and useful

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I upgraded from Windows 7 to Windows 10. Does the Windows 10 built-in security software, Windows Defender, provide enough protection against computer viruses, spyware and other malicious software? Will the Kaspersky Internet Security, which I had on my PC for Windows 7, conflict with Windows Defender?

A: So far, it appears that the built-in Windows Defender does provide good security for the average Windows 10 user. In tests, Windows Defender nearly matched commercial security software in stopping malicious attacks. While your Kaspersky software did somewhat better on the tests than Windows Defender, computer security professionals disagree on whether the difference was significant (see tinyurl.com/q6hjovm). In addition, Windows Defender doesn't conflict with other security programs; it turns itself off if you use other software.

Q: I upgraded from Windows 7 to Windows 10 on my 5-year-old Dell Inspiron 1545 laptop. Since then, my screen saver won't stay on. The PC abruptly reverts back to the Windows desktop, even though I didn't do anything. What's wrong?

I also have an unrelated problem that predates my Windows 10 upgrade: My Web browsing slows down when my browser says I have a "long running script." What

can I do about this?

A: There have been other complaints that the Windows 10 screen saver function doesn't work properly, and so far there's no definitive solution. But in your case, the cause might be that Dell says your laptop model isn't suitable for Windows 10. (It's absent from Dell's list of Windows 10-ready PC models at tinyurl.com/odhxc4j). As a result, Dell doesn't provide Windows 10 software drivers for your PC. The drivers allow Windows to control your PC and its accessories, and without them your computer may not run well.

To deal with "long running script" error messages, see my June column at tinyurl.com/ne3sgy4.

Q: We recently purchased a new Windows 10 PC. It recognized our older printer, a Hewlett-Packard F380, but when we print we get only a test page. What can we do?

A: Your 9-year-old printer probably requires a new software driver to work with Windows 10. To find a new driver, download HP's "printer install wizard" at tinyurl.com/ow98mo2. It will determine whether your printer will work with Windows 10, and will recommend a software driver if one is available.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

domain as quickly as possible once the tech titan concludes the technology is safe.

While states have taken the lead on regulating self-driving cars, policymakers in Washington hold indirect sway over

Better batteries to beat global warming: A race against time

WASHINGTON (AP)—One of the key technologies that could help wean the globe off fossil fuel is probably at your fingertips or in your pocket right now: the battery.

If batteries can get better, cheaper and store more power safely, then electric cars and solar- or wind- powered homes become more viable—even on cloudy days or when the wind isn't blowing. These types of technological solutions will be one of the more hopeful aspects of United Nations climate talks that begin next week in Paris.

"If you are serious about eliminating combustion of fossil fuels to power anything—a house, a city, a state—you can't do it without (energy) storage," which usually means batteries, said Carnegie Mellon University battery expert and inventor Jay Whitacre.

Former Vice President Al Gore, former U.S. Geological Survey chief (and current editor-in-chief of the journal *Science*) Marcia McNutt and others point to better batteries as one of the bright spots in the fight against climate change.

While batteries have been around for more than 200 years, this year the technology has amped up.

states' decision-making. California's Department of Motor Vehicles in particular has sought federal guidance as it struggles with how to move the cars safely from small-scale road tests to broader adoption.

Language that the federal government is revisiting specifies that in states where the public can get

access to the cars, a licensed driver should be behind the wheel.

Google sees that as unnecessary. It has argued that once cars can drive as safely as humans, it would be better to remove the steering wheel and pedals so that people don't mess up the ride.

A Google spokesman had no comment on word of the fed-

eral review.

The California State Transportation Agency has interpreted the 2013 federal guidance as urging caution. The federal update "reaffirms that the topic is evolving and one worthy of continued discussion and public input," spokeswoman Melissa Figueroa said.

FIRST YEAR JOINT Death Anniversary



Maria V. Pangelinan
May 6, 1944 – December 4, 2014



David E. Pangelinan
July 16, 1939 – October 10, 2014

We, the family, humbly invites all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved †Maria V. Pangelinan and †David E. Pangelinan unto eternal life.

Daily Mass of Intention is currently being offered at 6:00am, Mt. Carmel Cathedral through December 4, 2015.

On the last day, breakfast will be served at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Social Hall thereafter.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You.

The Family

Life & Style

Actor Paul Walker's father sues Porsche over fatal crash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paul Walker's father sued Porsche for negligence and wrongful death Wednesday over the 2013 accident that killed the "Fast & Furious" star.

Walker's father, who is the executor of his son's estate, filed the lawsuit claiming that the Porsche Carrera GT that his son was riding in lacked safety features that could have saved the actor's life.

The lawsuit cites features

included in other pending lawsuits against the automaker over the crash that might have saved the actor's life, including a stability control system, side-door reinforcements and a breakaway fuel line to help prevent the car from bursting into flames after a collision.

Walker was on a break from filming the seventh film in the "Fast & Furious" franchise when he was killed. He was riding in the Carrera GT driven by

friend and business associate Roger Rodas when the car spun out of control, struck three trees and burst into flames on a street in Santa Clarita, California.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages.

Rodas' widow, Kristine, who has a pending claim against Porsche in federal court, also filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the carmaker in state court on Wednesday.

An after-hours message sent

to Porsche seeking comment was not immediately returned.

The car company has denied in other lawsuits, including one filed by the actor's daughter, that it is responsible for Walker's death.

On Nov. 12, Porsche stated in a court filing that the Carrera GT had been altered and improperly maintained and those factors contributed to the deaths of Walker and Rodas.

The company also called Walker "a knowledgeable and sophisticated user of the 2005 Carrera GT," Porsche's lawyers stated in response to the lawsuit by Meadow Walker, the actor's daughter.

Meadow Walker's attorney, Jeff Milam, criticized the filing,



Walker

reiterating his claims that the car as sold was unsafe.

"If Porsche had designed the car to include proper safety features, Paul would have survived, he would be filming 'Fast and Furious 8,' and

Meadow Walker would have the father she adored," Milam wrote in a statement.

None of the cases have yet been set for trial.

Wednesday's lawsuit repeats a claim from Meadow Walker's case that the Porsche was traveling between 63 and 71 mph (101 to 114 kph) before it spun out of control.

Investigators concluded the Porsche was going much faster—up to 94 mph (151 kph)—

when it crashed.

The investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol concluded that it was unsafe speed and not mechanical problems that caused the crash. That investigation was aided by engineers from Porsche, who evaluated the wreckage of the rare car.

Walker, the star of the "Fast & Furious" film franchise, co-owned an auto racing team with Rodas named Always Evolving. Meadow Walker, 17, is the sole heir of his estate, which is controlled by the actor's father, Paul William Walker III.

Walker's two brothers helped complete action scenes in "Furious 7," which earned more than \$1.5 billion globally after it was released in April.

Casey Kasem's widow sued for wrongful death

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Three of the radio personality Casey Kasem's children and his brother sued his widow on Wednesday, claiming her actions led to his death in 2014.

The wrongful death lawsuit filed in Los



Kasem

Angeles Superior Court accuses Jean Kasem of elder abuse and inflicting emotional distress on Kasem's children from a previous marriage by restricting access to their father before his death.

"Casey's early death occurred as a direct and proximate result of Jean's neglect and physical abuse of Casey," the lawsuit states.

A call and email sent to Jean Kasem's attorney, H. Michael Soroy, was not immediately returned.

The longtime "American Top 40" host had a form of dementia and a severe bedsore when he died at age 82.

Kerri, Julie and Michael Kasem are joined in the lawsuit by their uncle, Mouner. The lawsuit seeks more than \$250,000, although a jury would have to decide any damage award.

Prosecutors earlier this year

declined to charge Jean Kasem with elder abuse, a decision that Kerri Kasem said Wednesday led to her family filing the civil case.

"We would rather see her in jail than receive one dime," Kerri Kasem said. "We don't care about the money. We care about justice."

The lawsuit follows years of legal wrangling between Jean Kasem and three of his adult children from a previous marriage. The groups fought over visitation access to Casey Kasem before his death in June 2014, with his daughter Kerri Kasem assuming control of his medical care.

A Los Angeles judge stripped Jean Kasem of decision-making authority over concerns about her decision to move Casey Kasem from a medical facility in Santa Monica, California, to a friend's home in Washington state.

Jean Kasem contended at the time she moved her husband to protect his privacy.

The 28-page lawsuit gives a detailed account of Kasem's

final days, including the extent of his ailments and the family infighting swirling around him.

It states that in the months before Casey Kasem's death, his wife repeatedly left him in various hospitals for days despite the fact he was ready to be discharged. The lawsuit also details numerous confrontations about Kasem's care, and it states Jean Kasem transported his body to Norway where it was buried in an unmarked grave.

That was despite Casey Kasem's wishes to be buried at a cemetery in Los Angeles, the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit states the Kasem's children and brother are seeking "fair recompense for the suffering they personally endured from witnessing the abuse and its painful and damaging physical effect on their beloved father and brother, and the gross treatment and disposition of Casey Kasem's remains in an unmarked grave in a distant land unknown to him or his family."

"What she did to my father is reprehensible," Kerri Kasem said. "It's disgusting. It's horrific."

'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' gets a PG-13 rating

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Motion Picture Association of America says "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" may not be entirely suitable for young kids.

The organization on Tuesday gave the J.J. Abrams-directed

film a PG-13 rating because of sci-fi action violence.

The designation tells parents that some scenes might be inappropriate for those younger than 13 but doesn't restrict attendance. The film comes out Dec. 18.

"Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith" also got a PG-13 rating in 2005. The five other films in the series were rated PG, but the first three were released before PG-13 was created in 1984.

Signed editions of Harper Lee novel offered for \$1,500

NEW YORK (AP)—How much is a signed Harper Lee novel worth? Her publisher is offering a special edition of "Go Set a Watchman" for \$1,500.

HarperCollins Publishers announced Wednesday that 500 collector's editions are available—leather bound with gold foil stamping, inside a velvet-lined cloth box. HarperCollins told The Associated Press that Lee, 89 and in frail condition, signed the books during the past few months.

Prices on eBay for signed Harper Lee books range from \$1,000 for an anniversary edition of "To Kill a Mockingbird" to \$15,000 for a signed and inscribed first edition of her Pulitzer Prize winning novel.

"Go Set a Watchman" is the unexpected second book by the press-shy author and has been on best-seller lists for much of the year despite mostly negative reviews and simmering doubts that Lee was fully aware of the book's release.

Written in the mid-1950s, "Watchman" was completed before "Mockingbird," but takes place 20 years later in the same small Southern community. The depiction of "Mockingbird" hero Atticus Finch as a racist opposed to integration startled readers and critics and set off an extended debate about one of literature's most beloved characters.

Lee, a Monroeville, Alabama, native, had long said that "Mockingbird" would be her only book.

Teen questions connection between sex and marriage

DEAR ABBY: I am 16 and a sophomore in high school. As someone who is exposed to social media, I see that many people emphasize sex as a sign of love. They seem to be saying a happy marriage cannot survive without sex.

My parents do not have sex and are distant with each other. They have issues between them. I'd like to know if a happy relationship can survive abstinence from sex.

I don't want to have sex until I'm married. Long-term relationships are not an exception. But guys expect the girls they date to have sex with them. Can you help me with this?

ABSTAINING IN ALABAMA

DEAR ABSTAINING: Because someone "expects" you to have sex does not mean that you are obligated to. The decision is a personal one, and if you prefer to abstain until after you are married, that is your privilege.

A girl who has sex with a boy as a way to hang onto him will be in for a disappointment. If the sex is all that's keeping them together, he will soon wander when he becomes bored and look for another conquest.

You ask if a sexless marriage can be successful and use your parents as an example. (Are you absolutely sure this is true? Or have you assumed it because they are not demonstrative around you?) The direct answer to that question is, sometimes,

No two couples are alike. Some stop having sex because they have lowered hormone levels, which makes them less interested. Sometimes one partner is unable to perform because of a medical condition. This doesn't necessarily spell the end of the marriage. It all depends upon the individuals and the situation.

On the other hand, other couples enjoy sex until they are in their 90s. As long as a husband and wife are in AGREEMENT about it, the union can be a happy and lasting one.

DEAR ABBY: With the holiday season coming, I want to offer a word of advice to parents who are considering having Santa photos taken of their kids at the mall. I managed one of those concessions and saw the best and the worst of parenting. Forcing kids to get your memory photo of them screaming in terror is ridiculous, and I will add, NOT FUNNY. Parents should take the time to ask the children if they WANT to see Santa.

If necessary, the parent should be in the photo, too. Don't tell the kids to smile and show their teeth. They'll look like the grill on a Ford. Don't wait till the last days, visit Santa when it's really crowded, enter a long line and then complain that the line is long.

And don't assume it's safe or that the company cares. My boss told me I shouldn't have background checks done because it "cost too much." I ordered them anyway, and when the reports were returned, we had to have one of the Santas removed immediately

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



from the floor.

SANTA HELPER IN FLORIDA

DEAR SANTA HELPER: Thanks for sharing your insight. I'm all for wanting to capture the memory, and during holiday time, temptation can be hard to resist. But forcing a child who finds Santa terrifying to sit on his lap for a picture doesn't seem like great parenting to me. A better idea would be to wait until Christmas morning and take some candid shots of the child opening his or her presents at home. That way the smiles will be genuine and it will ensure a better outcome for everyone involved.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

CLASSIFIED ADS



WHATZIT Solution: Wet behind the ears

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune’s Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

HEARLEARD

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today’s solution in classified section

NOW LEASING

SECTION 8 VOUCHER ACCEPTED

IRONWOOD

NEW 2, 3, and 4 bedroom energy efficient apartments in Saipan.
Lower utility costs up to 70% through solar panels and solar hot water.
UNITS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING.

For pictures, amenities, and application information visit our website
www.ironwoodhousing.com
or call 670-233-4348. Applications are being accepted Monday - Friday, 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. and on Saturday, 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., at Ironwood Community Center on Middle Road, Gualo Rai.

is now hiring a full-time

ADMIN. SUPPORT SPECIALIST

This position is responsible for assisting the Property Management Team in the daily aspects of on site management & operations for the the community at which they are employed. Candidate will also assist the Property Management and Supervisors with Special Projects and Administrative tasks.

Computer knowledge of MS Word and MS Excel is a plus.
Commitment to exceptional customer service is a plus.

Apply in person at the Triple J Corporate Office, Ground Floor Silver Hotel, Brigida St., Chalan Kanoa from Monday through Friday, 9am to 12 noon.
No phone calls.

Sandy Beach Homes is an equal opportunity employer.

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI

Solar Energy Advisor

Overview
In this role, you will be the forefront of Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc. driving the clean energy movement. You are the first person our customers meet along their journey of purchasing a MRE/SUNNOVA clean energy solution. Your work will reduce carbon emissions and greenhouse gases, taking the equivalent of millions of car miles off the road each year. If you are willing to work hard, want to make good money, and make the world a better place, then this position is an ideal fit.

However, this position is not a 9-to-5 desk job. As a Solar Energy Advisor at MRE, you will be responsible for generating your own leads, primarily by door to door sales efforts, referrals, and channel sales methods. You will be working directly with homeowners to lower their monthly utility by going green with MRE/SUNNOVA. This is a full time position at MRE that has a rich commission program linked to performance with benefits.

Responsibilities

- Drive production of opportunities to meet local sales teams' goals and objectives
- Develop qualified referrals and sales opportunities
- Generate own leads by directly contacting homeowners, initiate conversations and close home owner contracts to save money while using clean solar energy

Qualifications

- 2 year or 4 year college degree preferred
- High school diploma required
- Excellent computer skills including Microsoft Office, proficient with email and CRM systems
- MUST have prior door to door sales experience
- A track record of achievement as evidenced by sales awards, beating quota, etc.
- General understanding of the sales process and experience achieving and exceeding sales quota goals
- A positive, friendly personality and professional demeanor
- Flexibility to work within non-standard business hours
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Frequent local travel
- Frequent walking/standing for 6-8 hours per day
- Ability to work with daily exposure to outside environment including inclement weather
- Punctual, regular and consistent attendance
- A reliable form of personal transportation. Must be able to work independently, with minimal supervision
- Team player with a big picture attitude!
- High energy, strong drive to win!
- Highly persuasive
- Self-disciplined and honest
- Driven and wants to WIN
- Interested in long-term career opportunities because we promote from within
- Able to successfully pass a pre-employment background screen

Benefits for Full-Time Positions

- Competitive compensation with many positions incentivized
- Paid training with the area's leader in solar power
- Full benefits package including health, dental insurance • (After 90 Days employment)
- Career path opportunities for top performers

MRE is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer committed to diversity in the workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, gender identity or any other factor protected by applicable federal, state or local laws.

Mailing Address: PMB 80, PO Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Physical Address: Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-233-4673 (4MRE) **Fax:** 670-233-4679
www.micronesiarenewableenergy.com

J. C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc.
is seeking for the following position:

Supervisor

Interested applicants may pick up an application at the second floor of the Joeten Susupe Shopping Center.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

Warehouse for RENT

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
\$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

www.saipantribune.com

EMPLOYMENT

1-Cook, 2-Maintenance with at least 2 years exp. Interested applicants, call Susan S. Castro at 483-0121

Li'l Hands Music is looking for Music Artist. Experienced in voice coaching. Send resume to littlehandsmusic@yahoo.com

(7) Mason, (2) Carpenter, (1) Plumber, 5 years experience. Email resume to landmark@pticom.com

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

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TRIPLE J

Surf Club
SAIPAN

is now accepting applications for

- **SERVER**
- **COOK**

Experience preferred.

Apply in person at the Triple J Corporate Office, Ground Floor, Silver Hotel Brigida St., Chalan Kanoa from Monday through Friday, 9am to 12 noon. No phone calls.

Triple J is an equal opportunity employer.

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI

Solar Energy/Electrical Installation Technician

Overview
Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc. is seeking applicants to install residential grid-tied and off grid Solar PV systems. In this position, the PV Installer will provide support to the crew lead of the installation team, communicate job status data to the operations management, and ensure the completion of installation of all solar arrays/systems. It is the responsibility of every Installer to ensure safe work practices for the MRE installation team.

Responsibilities

- Pulling inventory for each installation job
- Pre-assemble job components in the warehouse
- Layout and assembly of solar modules / array and mounting hardware
- Mechanical/structural mounting of racking, modules and electrical equipment
- Electrical wiring of solar array/system (AC and DC)
- Document completion of completed installation
- Cleanup of job site
- Attend mandatory training sessions on new products, installation methodology and safety
- Additional duties required as needed

Qualifications

- 1 year of roof work, general construction, or Electrical required
- Previous solar experience strongly preferred
- Must be able to lift 50lbs
- Ability to work in extreme environments (example: heat, sun, etc)
- Must be willing and able to climb ladders, stairs, work on rooftops and able to work on your feet for long periods of time
- Basic computer skills including familiarity with Microsoft Office programs
- High school diploma or GED required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
- Excellent customer service skills required
- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen
- Must have a clean driving record (example- no DUI in the last 5 years)
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license
- Thrive in a team environment

Benefits for Full-Time Positions:

- Above Market Competitive compensation with many positions incentivized
- Paid training with Micronesia's leader in solar power
- Full benefits package including health, vision, and dental insurance after 90 days of employment
- Employee referral program
- Career path opportunities for top performers

MRE is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action employer committed to diversity in the workplace. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, gender identity or any other factor protected by applicable federal, or US Territorial laws.

Mailing Address: PMB 80, PO Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Physical Address: Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-233-4673 (4MRE) **Fax:** 670-233-4679
www.micronesiarenewableenergy.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MARIANA ISLANDS SMALL HOTEL ASSOCIATION

Has open vacancy on following position:

Russian Market Manager

Applicant must have 5 years experience in tourism industry, to have knowledge in Saipan and C.N.M.I. tourism industry, Russian Tourism Market, internet marketing, to have computer skills, speak, write and read Russian and English. CV and inquiries, forward to bookingsaipan@gmail.com

CHONG'S CORPORATION

Job Vacancy Announcement

One (1) TECHNICIAN -AIR-CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

- Install, service and repair of Central Air-conditioning, Refrigeration and Ventilation Systems
- Repair and service of Chilled Water Air-conditioning System
- Perform repair and trouble analysis of VAV and VVT Control Systems
- Perform Computer based Control System

Other requirements:

- Minimum 5-year work experience required
- 4-year Bachelor of Science degree from reputable College or University
- EPA Section 608 (Certification required)
- Must possess good communication skill

E-mail resume to chongs@pticom.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT (1) – Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 5 years work related experience, proficient in MS Word, excel, Peachtree and QuickBooks, knowledge of General Accounting and aviation industry, maintain book of accounts, knows how to prepare Financial Statements, Bank Reconciliation, Bookkeeping, Year End reports, Revenue requirements, Accounts receivables and payables, payroll, withholding tax, FICA, BGRT, excise tax and other work assigned; drop and pick up of customers, booking of charter flights, medical evacuation preparation and directly report to the President. Rate: \$6.05 to \$ 7.50/hr.

GENERAL MECHANIC (1) – Minimum of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate: \$6.05 to \$ 7.50/hr.

Interested applicants can mail their resume at P.O. Box 7688 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or may email to saipan@americopters.com. No phone calls please.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP: RFP16-GOV-016

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 09, 2015TIME: 4:30 P.M.

“SUPPLY OF VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES, A PROJECT UNDER THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1302, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN MP DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA FAX TO (670) 664-1115 TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, (CHAMORRO STANDARD TIME) DECEMBER 01, 2015.**

A SINGLE CONTRACT WILL BE AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS. THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RALPH DLG. TORRES
ACTING GOVERNOR

/S/ MARK O. RABULIMAN
CHARMAN, COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CBP/TSA IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT
PROJECT NO. CPA-TA-001-16

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the project onsite assessment and survey and preparation of design with plans and specifications to include construction of processing booths, office and restroom improvements and expansion of the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) area, installation of counters and in-line baggage system for TSA processing and operations, including office space, inspections areas, and other miscellaneous work to complete the project at the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, December 11, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island – (25 points);
2. A/E Design experience related to airport projects – (25 points);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants – (15 points);
4. The general reputation of the Consultant in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the Consultant's professional integrity and competence – (15 points);
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time - (10 points); and
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal – (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, DECEMBER 28, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: November 20, 2015

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR REPAIRS TO DELTA DOCK AT THE SAIPAN HARBOR
Project No. CPA-SS-001-16

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the repairs to Delta Dock at the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project Number CPA-SS-001-16.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, November 13, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Similar work experience in harbor A/E design, including, but not limited to needs analysis, design, cost estimating, and environmental review and permitting (25 points).
2. Capability to perform all aspects of the project, such as analysis, planning, environmental evaluations, financial analysis and architectural and engineering design (25 points).
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects (15 points).
4. The general reputation of the consultant in terms of quality of work experience and services performed for projects, and the consultant's professional integrity and competence (15 points).
5. Capacity to accomplish the work within the contract time (10 points).
6. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal (10 points).

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., DECEMBER 4, 2015**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOFOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer
Date: November 2, 2015

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

San Jose Village
P.O. Box 502149 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos.: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Email Address: administration@cda.gov.mp
Website: www.cda.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

December 18, 2015

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to loan documents, the Commonwealth Development Authority (“CDA”) shall auction off to the highest bidder various used airplane, parts and accessories and airline operation supplies.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **“AS IS”** and **“WHERE IS”**;
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BOSTON (AP)—The Philadelphia 76ers found a way to tie the longest losing streak in major U.S. professional sports history.

Blowing a late five-point lead in an 84-80 loss to the Boston Celtics on Wednesday night, the 76ers tumbled to their 26th straight loss and 16th in a row to start the season.

Philadelphia tied the major U.S. professional sports futility mark set by the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1976-77 and matched by the 76ers in 2013-14. They are two losses away from tying the then-New Jersey Nets' NBA-worst mark of 18 losses to open a season.

"How many streaks have I been a part of?" 76ers third-year coach Brett Brown said. "I'm numb to it."

Isaiah Thomas scored 30 points, Jae Crowder hit a go-ahead 3-pointer, and Evan Turner added 16 points for Boston. The 76ers scored three points in the final 6:13.

"It is hard," Philadelphia forward Nerlens Noel said. "You're so close to getting that first W. There's couple of plays that you've got to sleep on."

Jahill Okafor led the 76ers with 19 points and nine rebounds. Hollis Thompson scored 15 points.

Boston coach Brad Stevens said his team was feeling pressure, too.

"We were tight and we missed a lot of shots, and they were dominating us in the paint as far as blocking shots and at the rim and everything else," he said.

The 76ers opened an 11-point lead early in the final quarter and held that same advantage after Thompson's basket in the lane with just over 6 minutes to play. Boston then scored the next nine points, closing it to 77-75 on Jared Sullinger's jumper from the left corner with 3:13 left.

After Okafor's 3-point play gave the 76ers an 80-75 lead

Celtics rally to drop 76ers to 0-16

with just under 3 minutes left, the Celtics scored the next seven points. Crowder's 3 from the top of the key capped the spree with 38.5 seconds to play.

The Celtics knew how frustrating it would have been to lose.

"You guys know how much of a disappointment it would have been," Crowder said. "Very, very, very disappointing to all of us, coaches and players."

Phil Pressey back-rimmed a jumper in the lane and Thomas grabbed the rebound with 2.1 seconds left. He was fouled and hit both free throws to seal it.

"It hurts," Pressey said. "This one hurts because we've been doing it over and over again. I feel like we're going to get it done. If it keeps happening, we've got to keep watching film and try to correct it."

Thomas' driving basket closed it to 80-79 with 1:10 left.

There were many stretches in the third quarter where the fans were eerily quiet - probably because they were surprised that the Celtics were trailing against a winless team.

They went from quiet to a spattering of boos after Thompson's 3-pointer from the left wing made it 68-59 with 9:40 to play in the game.

The 76ers opened the second quarter with a 10-0 run over the first 5 minutes, turning a 26-26 deficit into an eight-point edge. Covington had seven points in the spree.

Raptors 103, Cavaliers 99

In Toronto, Kyle Lowry scored 27 points, DeMar DeRozan added 20 and Toronto beat Cleveland for its third straight victory.

LeBron James had 24 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Cavaliers, who lost their third straight road game. Kevin Love added 21 points and 13



Philadelphia 76ers' T.J. McConnell (12) passes as Boston Celtics' Isaiah Thomas (4) defends during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in Boston, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015.

rebounds.

The Raptors went up for good with 7:45 to go in the fourth.

After missing their first five shots of the fourth quarter, the Raptors scored nine straight points over a 2-minute span to open a 91-84 lead with 5:38 to go.

Timberwolves 99, Hawks 95

In Minneapolis, Zach LaVine had 18 points, six assists and five rebounds in place of the

injured Ricky Rubio, and Minnesota swept the season series with Atlanta.

Rubio first tweaked his left ankle Monday night against Philadelphia and tried to play through it Wednesday. But another spill in the second quarter ultimately limited him to 21 minutes.

Andrew Wiggins scored 15 points on 5-for-17 shooting for the Wolves, who won their second home game in a row after an 0-6 start at Target Center. The Wolves entered the night last in 3-point field goals, but went 9 for 21 against the Hawks.

Paul Millsap had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Jeff Teague scored 22 points for the Hawks. But Atlanta shot just 37.8 percent from the floor and 25 percent on 3s for its fifth loss in seven games.

Spurs 88, Mavericks 83

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard scored 26 points and San Antonio beat Dallas.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and seven rebounds in his return from a two-game absence because of a mild left ankle sprain. Tony Parker added 16 points and eight assists, and the Spurs improved to 12-3 with their third straight victory.

Wes Matthews had 15 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 13 for Dallas.

Devin Harris' 3-pointer cut San Antonio's lead to 84-83

with 33 seconds remaining, but Leonard followed with his own 3 just 18 seconds later. Matthews then missed a 3-pointer, and Manu Ginobili went 1 for 4 on free throws to close out the Spurs' eighth straight home victory to open the season.

Hornets 101, Wizards 87

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Jeremy Lamb had 18 points and seven rebounds, Nicolas Batum added 16 points and 11 assists and Charlotte closed with a 25-2 run to beat Washington.

The Hornets overcame a late nine-point deficit and set a franchise record by holding the Wizards to six points in the fourth quarter. Charlotte ran its home winning streak to seven and has won five of six overall to improve to 9-6.

Kemba Walker, coming off a 39-point game Monday night in Charlotte's overtime win over Sacramento, added 16 points, and Marvin Williams and Al Jefferson each had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Marcin Gortat led Washington with 17 points and 12 rebounds, and Bradley Beal also had 17 points.

Grizzlies 102, Rockets 93

In Houston, Jeff Green scored 20 points and Courtney Lee had 10 of his 17 in the fourth quarter to help Memphis beat strug-

gling Houston.

Houston has lost three straight to drop to 5-10 overall and 1-3 since coach Kevin McHale was fired and replaced by J.B. Bickerstaff. James Harden had 40 points for the Rockets.

The Grizzlies led for most of the game despite playing without Zach Randolph, who missed his fourth straight game with soreness in his right knee.

Kings 129, Bucks 118

In Milwaukee, Rudy Gay scored 36 points and Sacramento beat Milwaukee for its second road victory of the season.

Sacramento scoring and rebounding leader DeMarcus Cousins sat out because of a strained lower back. The Kings had lost all five previous games that Cousins missed this season.

Omri Casspi added 19 and seven rebounds, and Rajon Rondo had 10 points and 13 assists.

Bucks coach Jason Kidd was ejected with 1:49 remaining after he slapped the ball out of a referee's hand. Kidd had to be restrained by O.J. Mayo and an assistant coach before being escorted to the locker room. Giannis Antetokounmpo and Khris Middleton had 21 points apiece for Milwaukee.

Pistons 104, Heat 81

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Andre Drummond had 18 points and 20 rebounds and Detroit routed Miami to end a two-game losing streak.

Drummond had his fourth 20-rebound game of the season. Dwight Howard has the only other one in the NBA this season.

Reggie Jackson added 18 points and seven rebounds for the Pistons.

Gerald Green had 16 points for Miami, and Hassan Whiteside added 15 points and 13 rebounds. Dwyane Wade scored two points on 1-for-9 shooting—the fewest points he has ever scored in at least 20 minutes of action.

Thunder 110, Nets 99

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 30 points, Russell Westbrook added 27 points and 13 assists and Oklahoma City beat Brooklyn.

Dion Waiters had 16 points, and Serge Ibaka finished with 12 points and eight rebounds in the Thunder's third straight victory.

Brook Lopez scored 26 points for the Nets. They had their three-game winning streak in Oklahoma City broken.

Magic 100, Knicks 91

In Orlando, Florida, Victor Oladipo scored a season-high 24 points, and Nik Vucevic added 22 points and 12 rebounds in Orlando's victory over New York.

Tobias Harris had 17 points and 10 rebounds to help Orlando stop a two-game losing streak.

Carmelo Anthony led New York with 28 points and 13 rebounds, and Jose Calderon had 23 points.

Warriors want more after making NBA history with 16-0 start

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Even though he hasn't been in his usual spot on the bench, ailing coach Steve Kerr has contributed plenty to Golden State's record start.

On Tuesday night, his defending champion Warriors routed the Los Angeles Lakers 111-77 to become the first team in NBA history to begin a season 16-0. Hours earlier, Kerr offered his thoughts—then spent the game behind the scenes still recovering from a pair of back operations as interim coach Luke Walton led the squad to its latest win.

It hasn't been easy to be away as he heals. Kerr's message focused on Golden State's core values:

Joy. Mindfulness. Compassion. Competition.

"He just reminded every-

body, he put them up on the white board before we started shootaround and he reminded the guys what those values were," Walton said. "He emphasized to them how proud he was watching them, because we're hitting all four of those values. The first one and the most important one is probably joy. He wants us having fun. It's a long season, this game's meant to be fun."

"When we hit those four things we're not only very tough to beat, but we're very fun to watch, we're very fun to coach, we're very fun to be around, and he just told the guys how happy he was that they're continuing to do those things."

And there's no doubt these Dubs are the league's most en-

tertaining team, having plenty of fun as they chase far more than this sizzling start in November.

Kerr challenged this group to take it to another level this season and not settle for being the champs, acknowledging the Warriors will get everybody's best shot in every city and at home.

Golden State took that to heart, determined to show that last season was no fluke for a championship-starved franchise that captured its first NBA crown in 40 years.

"It's boggling my mind what this whole team does," said former Warriors star Jason Richardson, who happened to be honored on the record-setting evening. "You always wanted for this organization to be in this position."

Browns didn't discuss cutting Johnny Manziel before benching

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — The Browns believe sacking Johnny Manziel themselves will do him good.

One day after taking Manziel's starting job from him for breaking his promise to stay out of the spotlight and behave during the bye week, Browns coach Mike Pettine explained his decision was necessary.

He benched Manziel because Johnny Football didn't keep

his word.

"It's the trust, the accountability part of it," Pettine said. "This is where we had an obvious shortcoming."

Manziel was dumped as Cleveland's starter and dropped to third string by Pettine, who was angry after a video emerged of the second-year QB partying last week in Texas while the Browns were off. Before Manziel left town, Pettine said he made it clear to Manziel that he needed to act in a responsible

manner, one befitting a starting NFL quarterback.

When that didn't happen, Pettine had no choice but to stick Manziel behind starter Josh McCown and Austin Davis on Cleveland's depth chart. Manziel could be inactive Monday night when the Browns host the Baltimore Ravens, depriving the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner a chance to showcase his skills and progress on one of pro football's biggest stages.

Despite the demotion, the Browns haven't given up on Manziel.

"This is a heavy dose of adversity. We'll see how he handles it," Pettine said. "We told him yesterday, this isn't a dead end. This is a hurdle."

Pettine made the decision to remove Manziel as his starter after a video appeared of him rapping profane lyrics while holding what appeared to be a champagne bottle. This came just days after he was named

starter and after he had talked with Pettine, offensive coordinator John DeFilippo and quarterbacks coach Kevin O'Connell about the team's expectations for him in his new role.

Pettine was surprised by the video, but more disappointed than anything.

"It was right on the heels of discussions that not just I had with him but Kevin O'Connell and Flip and that trust was violated," Pettine said.

Pettine said the Browns did not consider cutting Manziel, a first-round draft pick who has made more headlines with his off-field antics than anything he's done between the lines.

And for those speculating that Manziel has played his last game with Cleveland, Pettine said that talk is premature.

"I certainly hope not," he said. "He has made great progress. Sometimes you have to take a step back to take a few forward."

During the portion of Wednesday's practice open to the media, Manziel stood with his hands tucked in his hooded sweatshirt and watched as McCown and Davis took all the snaps. At one point, Manziel dejectedly hung his head and stared at the grass under his feet as the Browns practiced on another shockingly mild late November afternoon.

The benching is a difficult

blow to the 22-year-old, who was riding high after being named Cleveland's starter for the remainder of the season last week. The same day he was promoted, Manziel, who spent 10 weeks in a rehab facility during the offseason, learned that the NFL had ruled he did not violate its personal conduct policy during a domestic incident last week.

Now, Manziel has fallen back to where he was at the start of this season—out of the lineup and out of favor with his coaches.

"You lose trust in buckets," Pettine said, "and you regain it in drops."

Pettine would not rule out Manziel starting again this season.

"Things can change," he said. "I think a lot of it, too, is how does it get handled? Last week, we made him the starter for the rest of the season. We all saw how quickly that changed."

Browns tackle Joe Thomas said Pettine's decision was supported in Cleveland's locker room.

"It's important that if you have rules and guidelines and people tell you something that you have follow-through," Thomas said. "It's important in every walk of life to be a man of your word and do the things you say you're going to do and be held accountable."

Brady says despite no matchup, he still respects Peyton

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady is too busy concerning himself with what he calls "the best defense in the NFL" to spend much time thinking about missing another matchup with Peyton Manning.

That's not keeping the New England Patriots quarterback from tipping his helmet to his long-time adversary.

"There's nobody that has more respect for Peyton than me, outside of probably his parents, his brother," Brady said Wednesday. "If anybody can appreciate what Peyton has accomplished, it's me. He's just been remarkable in every part of his career—he's been a tremendous player."

"It's unfortunate—everyone deals with different injuries at

different times. It just happens to be this week," Brady said. "They won last week with the guy (Brock) Osweiler they had last week."

Brady is 11-5 against Manning, 9-3 regular season. This week, the 10-0 Patriots will visit the 8-2 Broncos on Sunday night - and Manning will be sidelined because of a foot injury.

Broncos coach Gary Kubiak said Wednesday Manning's right foot will be in a cast "for at least a week."

Brady, who took a physical pounding from the Buffalo Bills in Monday night's 20-13 win, said he feels great but knows what he can expect Sunday.

"This defense that we're playing is the best defense in the NFL," he said. "They do

everything well. It's pretty challenging to find things on tape that you like. We have to be smart with the ball—that's a huge key to the game, is them being able to take it off of you and return it for touchdowns and so forth."

Brady said the Broncos use tight coverage and pressure.

"They put a lot of pressure on your skill guys to get open in coverage because they don't give you anything," he said. "They've limited teams to yards, points (second in the NFL, to New England), turnovers, sacks, first-down defense. They're impressive in every statistical category."

Two games ago, Brady lost slot receiver Julian Edelman to a broken foot. Monday night,

Danny Amendola caught nine passes and then suffered a sprained knee that has him in doubt for Sunday. The Patriots also lost wide receiver Aaron Dobson to an ankle injury.

The Patriots were down to two receivers and one of them, Chris Harper, had just been brought back from the practice squad.

Asked what allows his team to overcome the challenges of being banged up in a short week, Brady said: "Mental toughness - that's what it comes down to."

"We're off to a good start, but it really doesn't mean anything. So whatever happens after this Thursday is what's going to matter to our season, and this is when we need to start playing well," he said.



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2015 All Schools Cross Country Race

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Team William S. Reyes Elementary School poses after Saturday's awards ceremony of the All Schools Cross Country race last Saturday at the Airport Field. WSR finished second in the U11 boys division, while Cojiro Kaga (U7 boys), Jasmine Saluta and Princess Jose (U9 girls), and Coume Kaga (U11 girls) winning individual honors.



Marianas High School's David Roberto maintains a steady pace in the boys' U15 division.



Isaiah Aleksenko runs toward the finish line after completing the 1-mile run in the boys U9 division.



Team ACS pose for a group photo with officials of the Northern Marianas Athletics. Agape won the team awards in the boys' U15 and U18 divisions, and girls U13, U15, and U18 age groups.



Gabrielle Race, left, beats a throng of runners from Agape Christian School to win the girls' U18 crown.



Mt. Carmel School was the second team with the most runners in the boys U15 division.



Neil Skerei of MHS was the fourth best runner in the boys U15 age group.



Hopwood Middle School's Conatsu Kaga moves ahead of the pack in the U13 girls class.



MCS' Christian Villacrusis capped his dominating performance with the boys U15 division crown in the finals.



Saipan Community School won the team awards in the boys U7, U9, U11, U13, and girls U11 divisions. Isaiah Aleksenko (boys U9), Seung Jin Paik (boys U11), Ken Song (boys U13), and Hilah Bacani (girls U7) winning top honors.



Agape Christian School runners, from left, Shi Ji Hong, Song Chae, Candy Tang, and Ruth Wang jump for joy after finishing from second to fifth places behind U18 girls champion Gabrielle Race.



Celtics rally
to drop
76ers to 0-16

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Blue Haus,
Cholos pound
opponents

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Longuski gobbles up competition

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Keith Longuski zoomed his way to the top of Mt. Tapochao to rule anew the 31st edition of the Turkey Trot Fun Run from Lower Base to Saipan's highest peak yesterday.

Longuski, whose been winning various running events on the island, bested more than 130 runners including 41 from the open division.

The Commonwealth Health Center physician assistant completed 4.2-mile (6.8 kilometers) in 37:28, shaving more than one minute from the 38:35 he logged when he won last year's edition.

Longuski's time was also 2:17 better than 2013 champion Charlie Sendin's record of 39:45, but still 3:08 slower than the course record of 34:20 set by Eli Torgeson in 2008.

Former Saipan resident



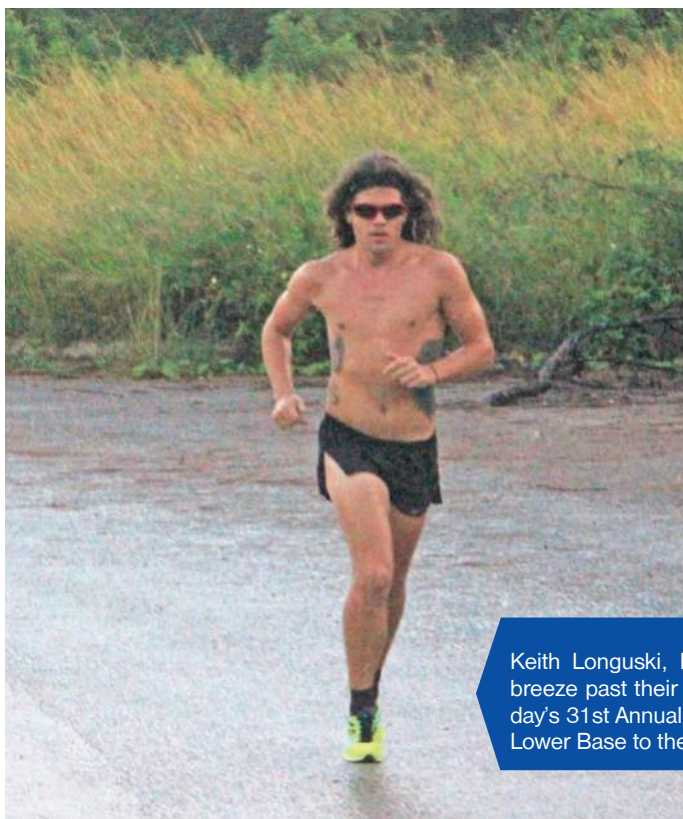
Northern Marianas
Athletics

Stewart Smith also broke the under 40-minute barrier in 2006 with 36:36.

"I'm sure I'm not the only one who enjoyed today's [yesterday] run. It was a beautiful weather. Cool with a little rain and overcast skies," said Longuski minutes after crossing the finish line on the top of Mt. Tapochao.

"The second to the last turn was really the hardest part. The incline was steep and it will really test you," added Longuski, who slowly broke away from the pack just past the Mobil gas station in Isa Drive.

Sendin—the 2012 winner at 44:54—was second overall at



JON PEREZ
Keith Longuski, left, and Mamiko Berger breeze past their opponents to rule yesterday's 31st Annual Turkey Trot Fun Run from Lower Base to the top of Mt. Tapochao.



41:34, which was close to two minutes slower than his 2013 record. He was only about 100 meters behind Longuski but failed to keep up with the eventual champion.

Longuski widened his gap

against Sendin after the first turn just past La Trattoria, the old Coffee Care Café in Capital Hill.

"Keith is like a horse. It was really hard to keep pace with him and to also catch him," said

Sendin, who finished ahead of Jack Stewart (43:46).

Mamiko Berger ruled the women's open division. She ran downhill a few minutes after crossing the finish line showing that she still had enough

energy left in her legs following a 41:52 time in completing the uphill run.

Berger's time was 18 seconds better compared to the 42:10

See LONGUSKI on Page 30

MBI/KFC, Tan Holdings still unbeaten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Micronesia Brokers, Inc./ Kentucky Fried Chicken and Tan Holdings

kept their undefeated records as they downed separate foes at the resumption of the 2nd JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League this week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

MBI/KFC crushed McDonald's, 89-64, in the first game last Wednesday for a perfect 3-0 record, the same mark that Tan Holdings posted last Monday following an 80-59 demolition of Docomo.

MBI/KFC established a twin-digit lead right in the first quarter, 28-17, to ease past McDonald's, which is still winless in three games. Jus-

tin Zapanta gave MBI/KFC a good start, knocking in all his 10 points in the opening frame, while White Capalad and Ivan Devero backed him up, chipping in 7 each.

In the second quarter, Mc-

Donald's managed to bring the lead down to 9, 34-43, behind the 7 straight points of Richard Cruz, but MBI/KFC widened the gap anew in the third, 62-

See MBI/KFC on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MBI/KFC's Perry Inos goes for a reverse layup against McDonald's' Richard Cruz, left, and Vicente Manibusan during the fourth quarter of their game in the JP caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

'Top Gun' wants to see if he still has it

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Andrew "Top Gun" Sablan is coming out of a long hiatus to again climb the eight-sides when he faces Mark "The Dark" Nuique in the semi main event of tonight's Trench Warz 19: No Turning Back at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.



Sablan (3-1 with 2 knockouts) last fought on Sept. 27, 2008, when he scored a knockout win over Martin Castro with 1:43 left in the first round of their undercard bout in Rites of Passage 5: Raging Warriors.

"I would like to see if I still

got what it takes [fighting] in the cage. I love it in there, it's been a while since I fought and I'm looking forward to fighting in front of the local crowd again," said Sablan, who trained for almost two months but stayed in shape with Team Zalaka.

Sablan and Nuique (8-4 with 5KOs) knew each other as both

See 'TOP GUN' on Page 30



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Trench Tech's Mark "The Dark" Nuique punches HBP Guam's Ernie Santos during their bout in the Rites of Passage 17: Road to Glory last year at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.